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NECC printer retires
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Alcohol and the media
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Sign dance show
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NECC Observer

Vol. 43, No. 3

Northern Essex Community College

Course sizes increase



Fall soccer action

NECC DEFENDER John Pickles clears the ball up-field during a recent game against Springfield Tech.

Chris Evans photo

Budget cuts hit hard

Lean times ahead as financial slashes take toll

By DEBORAH O'NEIL
Observer News Editor

NECC will squeeze by this year despite a 15 percent cut in state funding. The college's \$11.3 million budget, approved this summer by the board of trustees, denotes a loss of \$3.5 million in state funding since 1989.

"Things, I don't think can get any worse than they are," said Robert McDonald, dean of academic affairs. "(Reversions) would be a disaster. I don't know what else could be cut from this institution without serious detrimental affects on what we are trying to do."

The state allocated \$8.1 million to the school this year. Last year, that sum was \$9.3 million. Joe Brown, dean of administration, said the school is surviving the cuts by conserving expenditures, increasing fees for students, and con-

verting day classes to Division of Continuing Education courses.

Unfair budgeting: Some people are criticizing the budget because they fear the Lawrence campus will drain the Haverhill campus. Judith Tye, chairperson of the All College Council's budget committee, said the school is attempting to operate two campuses this year with less money than they had last year to run the campus.

"We are concerned that we didn't get any additional money from the state, and now we have two campuses to fund," Tye said. "We are concerned about the costs in Lawrence. We did get a lot of gifts, which is wonderful. That will help us. Now the question comes up, 'What happens if there are reversions this fall?' Where are we going to get the money to make it up?"

In the budget committee's proposed budget, it recom-

(Continued on page five)

Hard times mean more students per course section

By HELEN UBINAS
Observer Editor

When NECC was hit with substantial budget cuts, school administrators felt something had to give.

The \$3.5 million worth of cuts over the last four years have led to a re-evaluation of spending and planning for the school.

John Dimitry, NECC president, proposed a spending plan for fiscal year '91 that included changes ranging from 45 state-funding positions remaining vacant to using surplus trust fund balances in the institutional educational fee, bookstore, and food service accounts.

Dimitry said the savings "pretty well meets the horrendous cuts" the school received this year.

Dangerous cuts: While all steps include various repercussions, some faculty are most concerned with the backlash of the increased teacher-student ratio that was raised from 1:22 to 1:25.

While the ratio seems relatively minimal to some, others are concerned the increase will decrease the quality of education in the classroom.

Don Pailles, chair, coordinating committee, sent a letter to Dimitry addressing the issue.

The letter outlined the committee's concerns and stated average class size was not a reliable barometer of cost efficiency. According to the letter, the concept of cost efficiency omitted the consequences of poorer learning and higher attrition.

"We were concerned about the issue," Pailles said. "The president was arbitrarily making the decision to increase the ratio so the school would look good in terms of efficiency."

Economic troubles: Dimitry said the basic reasoning behind the changes, including the increased ratio, was lack of money.

"The worst way to handle the situation we're in is to say, 'OK, let's get rid of people,' he said. "If I went that way, both students and teachers would have suffered."

Dimitry said he believes the increase was moderate and hasn't affected the quality of life in the classroom.

While the arguments differ, Pailles said he agrees finances had a lot to do with the decision.

"There's always a grain of truth to every argument," he said. "You can't disregard the layoff issue because it's relevant, but I don't think it's the main issue."

In response to the letter, Dimitry rebutted class size was a reasonable barometric of cost efficiency.

Reduction in educational quality: It read, "By slightly increasing our average class size, we can serve the same number of students this fall as last with a concomitant reduction in our overall cost per student."

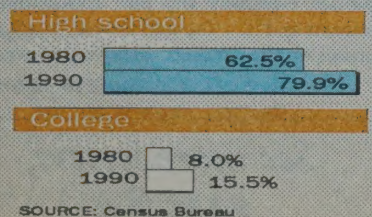
This feeling is not universal throughout the campus,

(continued on page four)

Today's infographic

Black gains in education

Proportion of blacks ages 35 to 44 who completed high school and college increased during the 1980s.



'Make marijuana legal now'

Coalition says drug is beneficial to many patients with medical problems

By ROBERT COMEAU
Observer Staff Reporter

The Mass. Cannabis Reform Coalition, together with the national Cannabis Action Network (CAN), held a rally recently calling for the legalization of marijuana.

The rally, a stop on CAN's national tour, was held on Bradford College's campus.

The groups stressed three issues: the medical, environmental, and recreational benefits of marijuana, a.k.a. cannabis and

hemp. Marijuana's medical benefits have been at issue for some time, not only in the halls of medicine, but in the halls of justice.

NECC Health Coordinator Pat Kepschull said marijuana should be prescribed for medicinal use to those in need, but she is against total legalization, citing its effect on pregnant women, and judgment impairment.

When it was pointed out that the same could be said of alcohol, Kepschull added, "Right, I'm against alcohol, too."

No longer prescribed: Marijuana cannot

be prescribed by a Massachusetts' physician. Brian Hecht wrote in the *New Republic* that the Public Health Service announced this July it will "phase out its program of allowing seriously ill patients to smoke marijuana."

Medicinal use of marijuana was testified to by CAN spokesperson Elvy Musikka, the first U.S. woman to obtain marijuana legally from the federal government, after an arrest for possession, an acquittal, and then an ensuing 12 year court battle, in Florida.

(continued on page four)

Tough questions

Student/faculty must face changes as numbers increase at this college

NECC's recent student teacher ratio increase from 1:22 to 1:25 may have more of an impact than some suspect.

While four-year colleges have double and even triple the number of students in their classrooms, an increase is more detrimental to a community college.

Community colleges have been known for smaller classrooms; therefore, they serve as a needed stepping stone into the world of larger schools.

Although the increase seems minimal to some, one must remember some students won't be able to handle the larger class size.

Quality decreases: Many students academically depend on the low number of students in NECC classrooms. Their success and the quality of education they receive depends on being able to receive extra help in their courses.

While it's evident NECC had some tough decisions to make on where and

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how to cut to survive financial problems, it must also remember its first loyalty belongs to the students.

It also may be unwise for the college to unsuccessfully try to match the services of past years with the cuts it is receiving.

Time to give in: Perhaps it is time to realize major changes are inevitable. One day soon, saving jobs won't be possible, and job cuts may have to occur if allocations for public colleges in the state don't improve next year.

While these changes might sound excessive, there's really no choice. Students will also suffer when jobs are cut, but NECC must realize that putting off the inevitable will undoubtedly hurt students more in the long run as the quality of education at this and other community colleges deteriorates

Professor objects to opinion column

To the editor:

I normally do not take the time to respond to articles in the *Observer*, but an article by Helen Ubinas, the *Observer* editor, published in the Sept. 13 edition, has provoked me to respond. The article criticized the college's faculty and staff for not doing more to make the recent student orientation more successful.

Mandatory activities: I agree, and would like to see more of our faculty/staff become more involved. However, Ms. Ubinas must also realize that our faculty/staff have not had a salary increase since October 1988. Also, the number of faculty/staff has been decreased by 18 members, from 172 to 154, and yet the same duties must be performed by the remaining faculty/staff.

To many faculty/staff this day, a student orientation day, an important student event, could not be considered essential. We do have other facets of our lives that may be considered as important or more essential. Most of us have children and their related events, dates, ect. and the responsibility to pay for them as well.

Many faculty/staff must maintain two or more jobs to be afforded the luxury to teach you. Now you may say, "Why don't you just quit?" Well, most of the faculty/staff at Northern Essex should be considered highly professional and, as such, gain immeasurable satisfaction by imparting knowledge to students. In fact, the students at NECC should consider themselves lucky that more of the faculty/staff have not just given up and left the teaching profession.

Shouldn't you have the right to demand

the best education you can get from a proven, quality faculty/staff. Even the state and its bureaucracy have deemed us essential personnel and, as such, required us, in the last fiscal year, to have a portion of our salary withheld (two to eight days pay, depending upon our salary rate) without the option of taking vacation time.

Many complaints: In addition, we, the faculty/staff, at Northern Essex, also have the privileges of having the highest labor grievance rate among all the community colleges in the state. Approximately 40 percent of all the grievances at all community colleges have their beginnings here. (49 out of 136 total grievances.) Doesn't this indicate the lack of respect afforded professionals who are charged with teaching/training our youth? The administration's response is that only one or two individuals comprise most of these grievances. That isn't true - one of the faculty/staff has 13 grievances outstanding.

Why, even if we eliminate this individual, our grievance record still shows 36 grievances, or 26 percent, of the total for all the 15 community colleges. Can you believe that some colleges have little or no grievances in the system? With 15 colleges, the student should expect to normally find about 7 percent of the labor violations/questions at NECC.

So in the past three years while receiving a salary reduction, and being forced to work with an openly hostile local administration, we have, in fact, been forced to work harder to make up for faculty/staff reductions and

(continued on page five)



Bush ignores people in current veto threat

To the editor:

As the recession deepens, America begins to take on the trappings of the Great Depression. For-sale signs sprout by the thousands as hard-pressed Americans attempt to trade their assets for hard cash to keep the wolves at bay.

Hundreds frantically race to potential job sites at a hint or rumor of work. Increasingly, families scour the roadside in search of returnable cans. Page upon page of foreclosures and auctions have largely supplanted the help wanted section of the newspapers.

The scanty help-wanted section consists mainly of a few part-time or slave-wage jobs and various scams designed to raise false hopes and fleece the unemployed. Television commercials tout 900 numbers promising jobs galore that are just a phone call away.

Tucked away in the corner of the screen in small print is the cost per minute charged to the job-seeker. Media giants shamelessly conspire with fast-buck artists to plunder the meager resources of the jobless.

Bleak outlook: Flying in the face of this bleak backdrop is the president's arrogant, imperious decision not to extend unemployment benefits. Make no mistake about it, President Bush's refusal to extend unemployment benefits bares the Republican Party's

Observer Letters

true colors. Bush has ruthlessly crushed under his heavy heel millions of desperately unemployed Americans when he cavalierly dismissed the suffering outside his door.

It is mindboggling to try to fathom the president's monumental indifference to his fellow Americans. If down-on-their-luck Americans were in the same class as, say, an oil-soaked Kuwaiti sheik or Saudi potentate, Bush would dispatch relief for their suffering, swift and sure.

Shallow solution: Bush's solution for the unemployment problem? When asked by reporters, the president said he would give the rich a capital gains tax break on their fat Wall Street portfolios. This is part and parcel of the classic Republican agenda - crush the working man and shower the filthy rich with tax breaks.

Something to consider as we unravel the yellow ribbon festooned about President Bush and give thought whether to grant him a second term. Is this the man to lead us out of the depression?

Sincerely yours,
Terrence L. Harrington

Smokers beware!

Reader warns about secret smokers' spy service

To the editor:

Warning to all students, staff, service personnel, and faculty!!

Smokers beware! The Secret Smoker Searchers Spy Service is looking for you. If you smoke in the sanctum sanctorum of smoke-free NECC, you will be sniffed-out and excoriated for your egregious eschewing of the edict handed down from on high, and snuffed out by the squealer seeker guardians of exhaust fans to foil your foe. You will be reported to the campus police for disciplinary action and/or expulsion from our campus.

The smoke sniffers will not tolerate any deviation nor divergence from the policy or party line. You must obey!

You have no friends in the non-smoking

fraternity regardless of their affinity to you. You will be exposed by them. They will hie thee to huddle with the wholly unclean (lest your fingers and lips fall off before them).

We must therefore confess our sins. We must beg forgiveness. We must say our Maxima Culpas. We must atone. We must do penance and resolve to sin no more. But if we smoke, we must do it in the outside air that is uncontaminated by our contaminating, polluting smoke.

Little by little, bite by bite, take by take, our freedoms flee!

Oh brother, save us from the sanctimony of the sanctimonious! Anonymity requested for fear of politically correct persecution.

Don Conway, Foreign Languages Dept.

Senate president slammed by former senate colleague

To the editor:

In the Sept. 28 issue of the *Observer*, John Hosty published a letter to the editor roundly criticizing what he calls the "abusive behavior" that staff and faculty of NECC supposedly display toward students. That letter does not give the students the full picture, and, given the inflammatory and very self-righteous tone of the letter, I believe it is necessary for someone to offer a rebuttal.

Abusive student: Mr. Hosty claims that he and other students have received a great deal of rough treatment from the staff; however, that is not the story that I've been hearing from the staff members themselves. According to them, it is Mr. Hosty who has

been dishing out most of the abuse, and, in fact, over the last year that he has held his senate seat, he has carved out quite a reputation for himself around campus for this. Indeed, if one reads his letter carefully, he basically admits that he has mistreated staff members. (Notice especially the line about abusive students and how the staff should "react... by returning the wrongs they've received.")

(Continued on page five)

See more letters,
page five

NECC Observer

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The NECC Observer is a public forum dedicated to the ideals of quality journalism.

To contribute...

Signed letters or guest columns are always welcome, especially if they concern NECC campus events, people, or issues. Due to space limitations, we reserve the right to edit all material. Deadline for next issue-Oct. 16

Regional Pacemaker Award-Associated Collegiate Press

Medallist Award-Columbia Scholastic Press Association

The changing Supreme Court

Appointments of conservative justices changed the liberal Warren court of the 1960s into the conservative Rehnquist court of today. Widely held assessments of who's liberal, conservative or moderate; a look at the court in 10-year intervals:

☐ Liberal

☐ Moderate

☐ Conservative

'62	Earl Warren	Hugo Black	Arthur Goldberg	William Douglas	William Brennan	Charles Whittaker	Potter Stewart	John Harlan	Tom Clark
'72	Warren Burger	Lewis Powell	Harry Blackmun	William Douglas	William Brennan	Byron White	Potter Stewart	William Rehnquist	Thurgood Marshall
'82	Warren Burger	Lewis Powell	Harry Blackmun	John Paul Stevens	William Brennan	Byron White	Sandra Day O'Connor	William Rehnquist	Thurgood Marshall
'92	Antonin Scalia	Anthony Kennedy	Harry Blackmun	John Paul Stevens	David Souter	Byron White	Sandra Day O'Connor	William Rehnquist	Clarence Thomas*

SOURCE: "Justices & Presidents," by Henry J. Abraham

*to be confirmed

9/16/91 COURT, Knight-Ridder by Aaron Epstein

KRTN Infographics

From one extreme to another

Changing Supreme Court in need of proper balance for the future

By MARK HYSLIP
Observer Opinion Editor

Things were different back in '62. Times were good, jobs were plentiful and the U.S. Supreme Court was full of liberals.

Now, the good times are on hold and the jobs are gone. As for the liberals, they've been systematically replaced.

It could be that the liberals, those denizens of the Democrats, simply no longer reflected the times. Over the past 30 years, times have changed indeed.

Skepticism: For one thing, government and the judicial system don't hold sway over this once great and naive land as they once did. The concepts are still intact, but these battle-scarred warriors have suffered many mortal wounds. The faith and trust are gone, replaced by a general weariness and a suspicion of anything associated with "the system."

The liberal court, in its time, reflected the mood of the people. Americans, particularly those under 30, were making their voices heard. While the mores and morals of the nation underwent drastic changes, so too did the cares and needs of the people. Concern for the human condition became a priority, a subject of much discussion and debate. And the Supreme Court was thoroughly embroiled in that debate.

Observer Column

The gradual transition from liberalism to conservatism within the Supreme Court occurred due to the changing political and economic climate. During times of economic repression, it is common to resort to a conservative frame of mind. The name of the game is to play it safe, otherwise known as "don't rock the boat."

Doubtful candidate: These terms seem to indicate the policies of the latest inductee to the Supreme Court, Clarence Thomas. He has been touted by President Bush as the right man for the job, but others seem to doubt Thomas' qualifications as well as the president's motivation for nominating him.

It has been hinted, somewhat quietly, that the only reason for Thomas' appointment to the Supreme Court has been to fill the minority gap. While it is a good idea to try and balance out the court by including minorities, Thomas is clearly not the right candidate. The way he skirted the issues during his conformation hearing is proof-positive of that.

A Supreme Court Justice should be a person of strong conviction, who's willing to stand up for his beliefs and ideals. Giving Thomas a judicial seat based solely on his race would

be a gross injustice to those candidates who are more qualified, as well as a slap in the face to the very concepts of the Supreme Court.

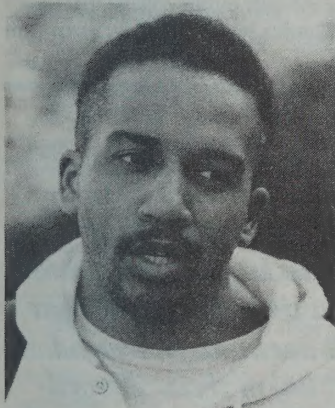
Poor replacement: It could stand to reason that Thomas was nominated to fill the liberal spot, vacated by Thurgood Marshal, with that of a conservative. Bush, who's whole political career is based on the "don't rock the boat" theory, would rather have the court stacked on the conservative side. As it stands, seven out of nine justices are conservative, with the remaining two being moderate. Apparently, the liberal vote is outdated.

The law is the law, but those who are appointed the life-long post of Supreme Court Justice are responsible for guiding the entire nation. There should not be a monopoly on one point of view.

It is hard to believe that in this society, with many once-taboo subjects being openly discussed, that there is not one person left in the Supreme Court to represent the liberal point of view. What is needed is a balance between liberalism and conservatism.

A fresh start: In 30 years, we've gone from one extreme to the other. It's time to think about equal representation and a balanced Supreme Court.

Should the Supreme Court be balanced?



Bryan Spriggs, liberal arts.
"In light of the given situation with teen pregnancy, drugs and all the negative things that have been happening, I lean a little bit towards the conservative side. There has to be some voice of reason coming from somewhere to bring about some type of boundary."

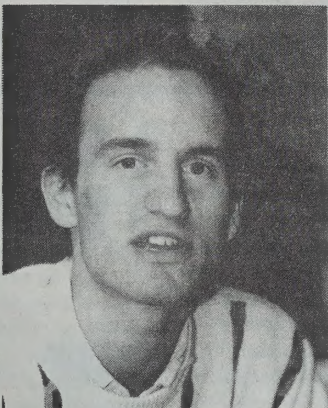
Aida Cabrera, liberal arts.
"I am concerned because on such issues as abortion. I think we should have the rights and liberty to choose as we please, not have more people leaning towards one side than the other."

Chris Evans photos



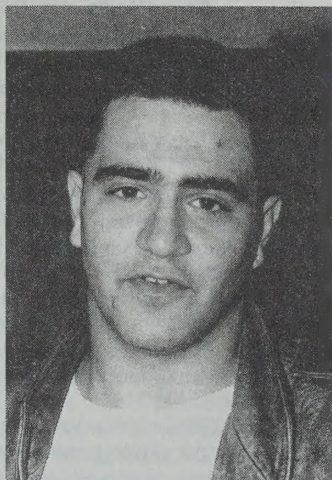
Dave Adolf, business management.
"I am concerned about it. I think they will be working more for money. All the Republicans I know, that is all they care about."

Al Crepeau, criminal justice.
"No, it doesn't worry me at all. I think the Supreme Court could use a more conservative view towards issues in the United States."



Chris Young, MASSPIRG representative.
"I am not necessarily concerned about the Supreme Court's shift to the right, but I am very concerned that the Supreme Court is becoming used as a tool of patrician politics instead of as an unbiased check on what is right according to the Constitution."

Ellie Pelletier, business management.
"I don't think it really matters because I think it is about time they became more conservative. I think everybody is too open with what they are doing, and I think it is about time that people take more responsibility instead of flaunting things too much."



Jeremy Arbour, criminal justice.
"I am concerned about the shift to the right because I am a more liberal person and more conservative means an infringement on the constitutional rights of the people of the United States."

Christine Clermont, business.
"I think Clarence Thomas is too conservative. I don't think he should be confirmed. We should replace Thurgood Marshall with a person who is like him to balance it out."



Chuck Wyatt, general studies.
"I see it as an extension of Reganism. Reagan appointed a lot of conservative judges. Conservatism is taking away the individual rights from the public. They don't have to read your rights when you get arrested, search and seizure is mostly wide open, and they allow coerced confession to stand up in court, and that is not fair."

Dave Morin, business management.
"If Judge Thomas goes by the law as he stated, instead of what he believes in his heart, I believe he will make the right decisions. I don't think there will be a right wing."

Class sizes jump— from page one

however.

Eugene Wintner, assistant professor, department of developmental studies, believes the purpose of the developmental courses giving extra help to students is being defeated.

Wintner said there are usually about 17-25 students in Basic Reading, but this semester there are 30.

"We're seeing a shift of sections that should ideally be 15 and are now between 25 and 30," he said.

He believes there's no possible way students can receive the same attention in a class of 30 as they could in 15.

Pampered faculty?: While Wintner is troubled over the increase, Corinne Grise, chairperson, division of mathematics, science and technology, said she doesn't think teaching a class of 30 students is a problem.

"When you're giving up knowledge to students, what difference does it make if you're teaching a couple more?" she said.

Grise said proof of this is evident when master schedules are re-evaluated.

"After a month or six weeks into the class, a class that started with 30 is many times decreased to about 22," she said.

If students do need extra help, Grise believes students can get it through other means.

"Everyone seems to think you can do a better job with less students," she said. "But that's the purpose of office hours."

Unrealistic ideals: Pailles said outside of signing registration forms, many students don't use the hours set aside.

"There's always a legal type of escape," he said. "In actuality, there are very few students using office hours. Most students that need help don't feel comfortable walking in...it's a big bubble."

Grise said science department classes have about 48 students and haven't had many problems or complaints.

"Whenever you increase someone's workload, they're not going to like it," she said. "It's much easier to teach a class of ten. When someone's giving a speech, what difference does it make if there's ten or 100 people in the room?"

Whether or not the increase is found damaging, Wintner and Pailles plan to take measures to protect certain divisions.

Off-limit classrooms: Because Pailles and the committee didn't receive a satisfactory response to their concerns, future plans include bidding for some classrooms to have a set number of students when a new contract

Uncomfortable feeling

"There's always a legal type of escape," he said. "In actuality, there are very few students using office hours. Most students that need help don't feel comfortable walking in...it's a big bubble."

is drawn up.

"We want to set up those classrooms so they aren't touched," he said. "This issue will be a big part when bargaining the contract."

In terms of his own class, Wintner said he's running it in a less individualized and more group setting.

Wintner said he hasn't received many complaints from the students yet because many are new and have nothing to compare the setting to.

"I've heard a few complaints about the lab," he said. "They say sometimes it's too crowded and they have to wait too long for answer keys or to talk to someone."

Faculty frustrations: Pailles said those in power can get away with small changes, but further changes can lead to backlash.

"He (Dimitry) had a lot of people opposing him," he said. "I think he was being a bit pig-headed about the whole thing. Teachers are frustrated because they can't do the things they used to do. They're not being as efficient as they'd like."

Despite their feeling, neither Pailles or Wintner blames the president and realize the predicament he is in.

"I'm sure it wasn't his intention to stress the developmental area," Wintner said. "I just don't think he really saw it as part of the fall-out."

Wintner said right now he and other faculty are trying to cope and hope the increases won't continue.

"Part of the problem is budget pressure," he said. "If the schools budget remains as desperate, things will probably get worse."

Something's got to give: If they do, Wintner said the program will have to be reshuffled.



Hiking through the Swiss Alps

ANN TRAINOR KENT, a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, will talk about her latest adventure in Switzerland at the Life Long Learning program Thursday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m. in the library conference center.

File photo

"I'd have to tear up my curriculum and start all over again," he said. "Maybe plug everyone up to a machine and invent a new way of teaching."

Despite differing opinions on the change, each side realizes the economic state of the school.

"If you've got decreasing money, fixed staff and still want to keep things running,

what's going to give?" Pailles said. "If you keep class sizes the way they are, you've got to let people go."

Dimitry hopes this won't be the case, but said he fears there's not much more he can do if cuts continue.

"We're the only public college that hasn't laid off," Dimitry said. "I think we've run out of magic."

Pot legal – from page one

Musikka suffers from glaucoma in her left eye, but with marijuana treatment, it is under control. Studies show that marijuana relieves pressure in the eye caused by glaucoma and other ailments, relieving the pressure relieves eye pain and headaches.

The government allows the prescription of a pill containing synthetic THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. A study by Dr. Alfred Chang of the National Cancer Institute found the ingestion of the THC pill can leave the patient waiting hours for the drug's effect, while smoked marijuana gets THC to the brain almost immediately through the lungs.

Marijuana has been found effective in treating the nausea following chemotherapy treatments of cancer patients. On the irony of giving an oral THC pill to a nauseous patient, Hecht wrote, "It's like treating diarrhea with a suppository."

Musikka disagrees with laws keeping marijuana from the sick.

"(They're) uncompassionate, sick, totally immoral and obscene, that's why I'm traveling with CAN."

NECC student Chris Dunbar compares the gangster violence of the alcohol prohibition era to today's drug related violence, and believes that marijuana should be legalized.

"No matter how heavy you crack down on it, it's always going to come in, there's always going to be a way around (prohibition)."

Dunbar also said the legalization of marijuana would make the drug safer than the black market pot, with government regulation, and would increase federal revenue through taxes.

Steve Epstein Esq., founder of Mass.

Cannabis Reform Coalition, said "Drug War policy" is behind the prohibition of marijuana, even to the seriously ill. Epstein points to a recent ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court of Mass. to reject Joseph Hutchins' appeal on a conviction of marijuana possession.

Hutchins suffers from scleroderma, a debilitating and progressive disease which causes skin and other body parts, especially the esophagus, to harden.

Court ruling message: Hutchins smoked marijuana to relieve some of his symptoms, such as nausea. The court said they didn't want to send a mixed message to the public by saying that marijuana had a benefit for this individual, and that the benefits to the individual may not be as important as drug enforcement laws.

Pot proponents claim hemp could cure environmental problems while providing an inexpensive source of THC for the ill and well alike, citing use of hemp oil instead of petroleum in many products, fuel made from biomass of hemp, and many products that can be made from hemp fibers, including paper, cloth, and rope.

Ed DeSchuytner, chairman, science department, said of the variety of uses attributed to the cannabis plant, that switching to hemp to produce energy, oil, and textiles, may look good on the surface, but petroleum and the currently used fibers, such as cotton, are simply more efficient.

DeSchuytner said the change would create such a demand for hemp that it would have to compete for space currently used to produce food.

The pro-legalization groups also support the recreational use of marijuana.



Bob Comeau photo

Steve Epstein

"We're concerned about people just having a right to do what they want to do that doesn't harm anybody and doesn't harm them. According to all the experts..., marijuana is pharmacologically and toxicologically harmless. It does not harm your body one iota."

"We're concerned about people just having a right to do what they want to do that doesn't harm anybody and doesn't harm them. According to all the experts..., marijuana is pharmacologically and toxicologically harmless. It does not harm your body one iota," Epstein said.

Research done: Numerous studies have been done on the effects of smoking marijuana on the body, many pointing to short term memory loss, respiratory damage, and lower birth weights of babies whose mothers smoked marijuana. Some studies even point to possible brain damage from the use of cannabis.

Kevin Aplin, CAN spokesperson, called into question the research's methodology, and said "all the science that the Partnership (for a Drug Free America) puts out is gutter science."

One Bradford College student attending the rally said, "I think most drugs can be very

harmful, but I really believe that marijuana is not a dangerous drug."

Pro-legalizationists have pointed out that marijuana is a non-lethal drug, that it is physically impossible for a person to smoke themselves to death, while alcohol poisoning deaths repeatedly prove that legal alcohol kills.

Marijuana critics argue that a case against alcohol is not a case for marijuana, and have called pot a "gate-way drug," citing studies that show a vast majority of "heavier" drug users (like cocaine) had first tried marijuana.

Mass. Cannabis Reform Coalition invites any parties interested in the legalization effort to write them at: Mass. Can., One Homestead Road, Marblehead, Mass. 01945-1122. Anyone interested in the national CAN should write: Cannabis Action Network, P.O. Box 54528, Lexington, KY 40555, or call (603) 873-9707.

Budget – from page one

mends no more than \$350,000 be spent on the Lawrence campus, including security and janitorial fees. Tye said the president took \$250,000 out of trust funds and added it to the base allocation of \$350,000 for the new campus.

"We drained last year to meet the reversions," Tye said. "What was left was drained to meet this year. I think the facility is wonderful. The only thing I'm concerned about is, are we in a position to support it without any additional funding from the state."

President John R. Dimitry said even though the state requires two separate budgets for the two campuses, he would like to combine them into one budget.

"We're going to take every penny we've got and throw it into a common pot to keep the campus afloat," Dimitry said. "None of the money spent for furniture or equipment or for the construction (in Lawrence). That's paid for by a separate account. The fact is, the money should do something good for students."

Student burden: Budget cuts most directly affect students through the increase in tuition fees, Brown said. An estimated \$240,000 will be generated by \$116 increase. Last year, full time, in-state students paid \$696 for tuition fees combined. This year, that tab has increased \$792 for tuition and fees. Of that sum, \$504 goes to the state.

"The burden of costs is shifting," Brown said. "It's shifting away from a state-subsidized system. That is certainly the trend."

In order to retain the money students are paying for courses, NECC has converted many day division classes to the DCE program. This move accounts for approximately \$380,000 of this year's budget, which Brown said will be used to pay teacher salaries.

"Because of the budget cuts, you can't find the faculty members anymore," Brown said. "(DCE) basically gives you the money to pay the faculty members. That's another measure we have to take to save money. The teachers are still getting paid the identical

sum. The faculty pay has not been reduced and will not be reduced."

Bigger classes: Teachers have not yet been given a pay raise since June 30, 1989 but this year they are teaching bigger classes than ever before. To realize the savings of \$150,000 Dimitry increased the average class size from 22 to 25, eliminating 100 courses available to students.

McDonald said because of the individualized nature of some courses there are teachers who are not pleased with the increase in class size.

"Depending on the course, depending on how the course is taught and what the goals of the course are, there may be a serious impact in the type of delivery services made available," he said. "Many courses involve interaction. Certain kinds of classes have very stringent restrictions on the types of equipment available. We've tried not to overburden certain types of classes."

In the past four years, the school has lost 42 employees and the positions remain unfilled because the vacancies represent a \$1.1 million savings in the budget, Brown said.

"Of the 42 vacant positions, roughly two-thirds are full-time faculty," "These positions were vacated on a voluntary basis and the school did not choose to fill them. These offices with the vacancies I am certain will tell you that they could not do their jobs as well as they could when those jobs were filled."

Campus-wide cuts: The academic area of the school is not the only one suffering, Brown said.

The maintenance section will not be getting any new equipment such as snow plows, lawn mowers or trucks this year.

No money has been spent on basic things such as tables and chairs either, he said.

"We have spent very little money, if any, on basic replacements like tables, chairs and furniture," Brown said. "To the best of my memory, we've spent nothing in maintenance."

Ailing building: The area that has been

Sanborn – from page two

Apparently, his behavior stems from the misguided belief that because he pays tuition and fees to this school, it grants him the right to behave in a rude and bullying manner toward the staff, to pompously tell them how they're supposed to be doing their jobs, and to demand that the moment he walks into an office, everyone will drop whatever they're doing to serve his needs, regardless of how ridiculous they might be. If they don't respond quickly enough or with the proper amount of respect, he may react by complaining to their superiors or the dean of students, or by filing a grievance (a tactic he used a couple of times last year). Of course, the fact that he holds the titles of student senate president and student trustee has no doubt contributed greatly to his attitude problem.

Because they knew that I was a member of the senate, several staff members complained to me last year about Mr. Hosty's treatment of them. What I heard from them made me very upset. I also could sympathize completely; I had had the pleasure of seeing him in action many times at our meeting, and his attitude toward other members of the senate was not much better. In fact, it was Mr. Hosty's own "intolerant and abrupt" behavior that led me to leave the senate last year without serving my full term. In particular, I found his patronizing attitude toward female senate members especially offensive. (This behavior led to the resignation of another woman on the senate near the end of the year.) The complaints I received from staff members only convinced me all the more to leave the senate and distance myself as much as possible from Mr. Hosty and his tactics.

Truth known: The reason that I am writing this letter is that I believe that the students of this school have been kept in the dark for too long about what has been happening on the student senate for the last year, and I fear that Mr. Hosty's letter will only serve to mislead them on this issue. I think students should also be aware that when I tried to complain about Hosty to the dean of student affairs last year and to have something done about him, Dean Landry refused to step in, claiming that it's not his place to interfere with student government. It seems to me that

the proper course of action is not to go to administration, but to present the problem to the students themselves in the hope that they may take the initiative in finding a way to correct this situation. One sure way that I'd like to suggest to them is that they remember this issue when they go to the ballot box to vote for this year's senate.

Even though I am no longer a member of the student senate, as a voting member of the student body I still have the right to be angry about the way in which my senate president and student trustee chooses to represent me. Indeed, Mr. Hosty's behavior and attitude in no way, shape, or form represents me or my beliefs on how student government should be run. He has used his offices to abuse and trample on the rights of other members of this college community, whether it be members of the senate or the school staff, and he is enraged by anyone who dares to disagree with him or to stand up to his bullying. Only the most belligerent student could be properly represented by this kind of behavior.

Thank you for your time.

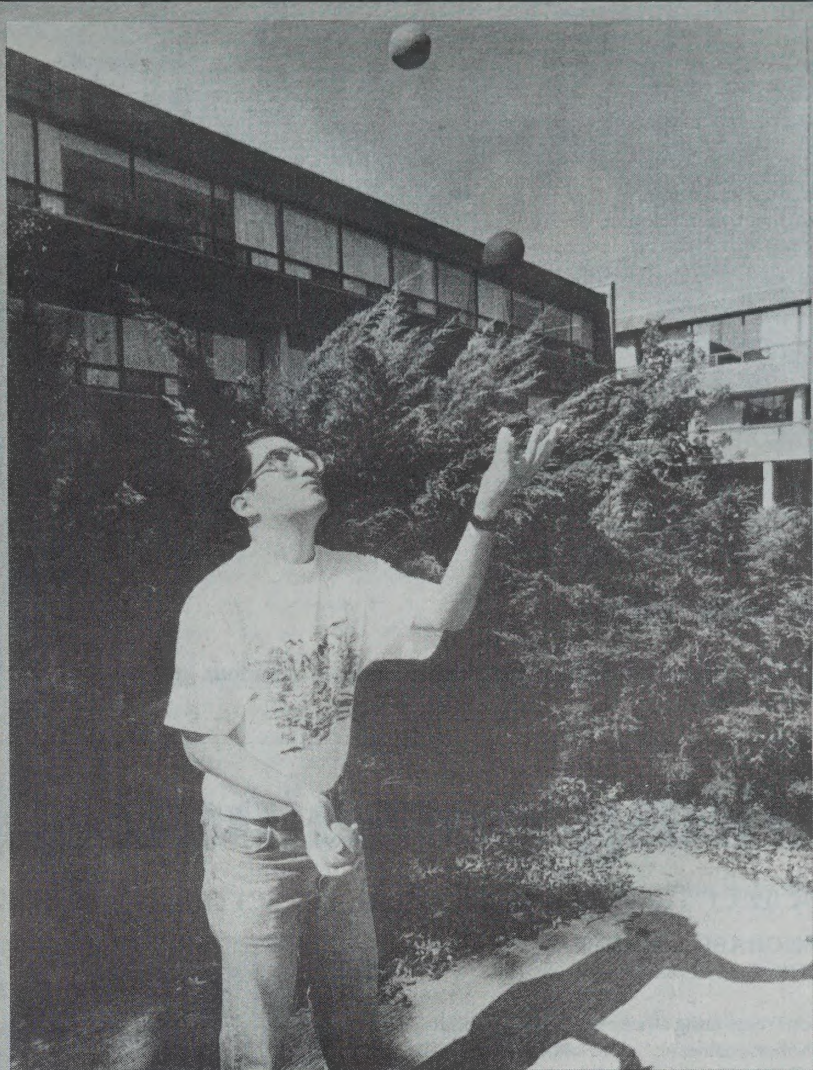
Sincerely,
Kelly J. Sanborn

Editor's note:

Responding to these allegations, Hosty said, "I'm sorry Kelly feels this way. Perhaps if she had spoken to me about this before she wrote the Letter to the Editor, we may have been able to resolve her issues. It is sad that Kelly would waste her own time, and the time of the NECC Observer readers by using the editorial section to attack someone with whom she had a personal conflict. This sort of cheap shot was exactly what I refused to do in my article about abuse to students."

"I would like to make clear that I do not discriminate against women in any form. Kelly did not leave the senate in disgust like she states; she was removed from office for her lack of participation and numerous unexcused absences that violate the SGA constitution. Senate members from last year will unanimously attest to the fact that I tried several times to resolve the conflict that exists between Kelly and I."

"It seems Kelly is still very angry with me for reasons I do not understand, and this anger is what really motivated her article."



Keep your eye on the ball

SADIK AL-EGAILY juggles on the quadrangle on a sunny day last week.

Chris Evans photo

criticized as being the worst hit, is the library, Brown said.

Linda Hummel-Shea, coordinator of library services, said if the president does not increase the library's budget, the facilities available in the library will be cut in half. Last year the library was allocated about \$83,750. [This year they have been cut to about \$50,000 Hummel-Shea said.]

Library materials have seen an 11 percent inflation rate in the last year and the school has cut their funding by 12 percent, she said.

The library is waiting to see if the president will decide to increase their funding, but if he doesn't, Hummel-Shea will cancel their microfiche subscriptions, reference titles subscriptions and law title subscriptions, as well as get rid of the Info-trac machine.

"If we only have \$50,000, we will be in severe financial situation," Hummel-Shea said. "This isn't a one year problem. We've been losing money in the last few years. We will be using research capabilities going back to what we were doing in the late '70s and '80s."

Conserving to save: Brown said the school has been doing well in other areas that help make cuts more manageable. In 1988, the utilities bill totaled \$780,000. Last year the school knocked the bill to \$650,000. This year's budget calls for no more than \$670,000 for utilities. Brown said reminding people to shut off lights can save the school money.

The school has also placed limitations on the staff's school-funded, out of state travel.

Not all areas have been cut. The president increased spending in advertising and publicity this year.

The ACC's budget committee proposal

called for \$50,000 in spending for advertising. The president increased it to \$75,000.

The budget committee also recommended a \$10,000 budget for the staff development office. The president leveled their budget with last year's, at \$17,000.

Supplemental money: McDonald said an integral part of the school's survival in the rough time is the money awarded through grants, which are not included in the budget.

This year the school received a \$140,000 grant from the federal government for special services. McDonald said the money will be directed toward the academic support areas of the school such as assessment, counseling, guidance and the reading and writing labs.

The Eisenhower Grant, in the sum of \$36,000, is used to assist NECC in outreach to local schools, said McDonald.

"We're relying on grant funding very heavily," McDonald said. "If all the grants diminished, I think it would make us very seriously look at some of the things we're doing as an institution."

NECC still stands as the third lowest-cost public college in the state. NECC is also one of the few schools that has not been forced into layoffs, said Brown adding that he is not sure what is over the horizon for the school.

"The major fundamental issue facing this college is in view of all the cuts, how will we balance the state budget cuts, our continuing effort to provide quality education and balance it with the fact that we're the third lowest fee charger in the state?" said Brown. "We just have to see what the future holds. In my view, there will be no increase in state funding until the general economy improves."

Dufresne letter – from page two

still you expect us to cheerfully attend an optional college event.

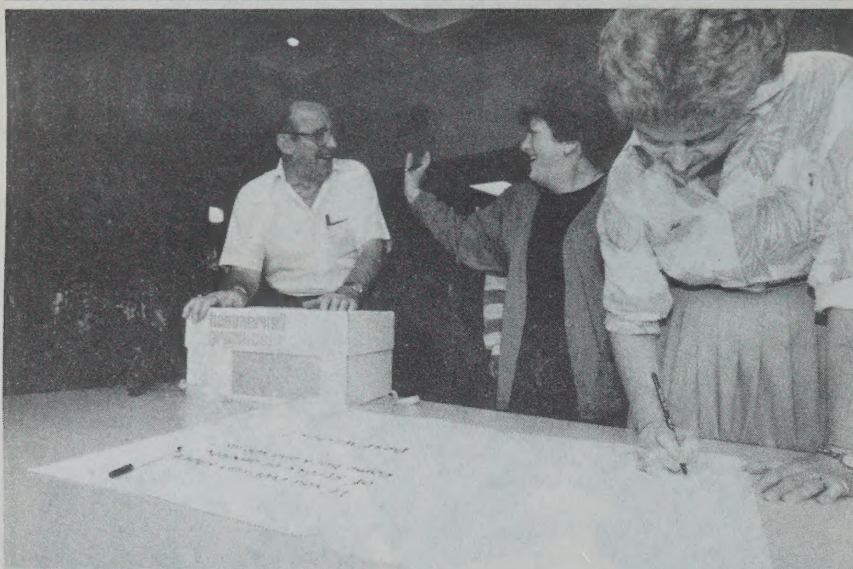
Ms. Ubinas must realize that while our positions do look to be "easy jobs," we do, in fact, have many responsibilities that don't appear on the surface. Our jobs are just as demanding as that of a construction worker's or that of a college president. It is extremely easy to complain and say faculty/staff don't want to participate but, would you, if you were treated in the same manner as we?

No split: Jack Aronson, former president of the faculty/staff union, once stated to President Dimitry in one of many, many MACER (Management Advisory Committee on Employee Relations) meetings that for "faculty/staff morale to sink, it

would have to be considered to be an improvement, since the faculty and professional staff at NECC have no morale at all."

All we, the faculty and professional staff, ask is that before adverse statements are made denigrating us, is to consider all that we have done given the circumstances. And now that the new students have finally attended classes, wouldn't you new and returning students rather have desks and seats that do not collapse and are usable rather than an "optional student orientation day?"

Sincerely,
Roger Dufresne
Business Administrator /Treasurer,
NECC faculty association



Job well done

ED FICE recently retired from NECC after working at various jobs throughout his 27 year career.

C. Evans photo

Killing combination

Speaker to discuss alcohol, advertising, media

By **MICHAEL B. PIERCE**
Observer Features Editor

For one recovering alcoholic, lecturing about alcoholism enables her to educate others about this disease.

Jean Kilbourne is bringing her slide presentation *Under the Influence* to NECC on Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bentley Library Conference Area.

"In her presentation, she shows real photographs of how alcohol is advertised in the media and how it links alcohol with attributes and qualities such as happiness, wealth, prestige, success, and sexual satisfaction," said Judith Kamber, director of staff development. "The point she's making is that the abuse of alcohol actually diminishes and destroys all of those qualities that we're led to believe."

"Kilbourne's lecture is part of a number of programs designed to reach the community and NECC about alcohol and drug abuse," said Leonard DeBenedictis, employee assistance program director of the Family Service Association of Greater Lawrence.

Not so innocent: Through her presentations, Kilbourne attempts to show audiences how seemingly innocent ads can affect people.

"Alcohol is advertised in a way to make people feel beautiful and sociable," Kamber said. "I suppose it's false advertising in a sense. They're selling us a bill of goods."

She also said alcohol commercials usually portray people having fun while drinking, but in reality this is rarely the case.

"Most people can testify that when they go to a party where there's a lot of alcohol, what they really see is people upset, throwing up, fighting, crying, and people who can't drive their cars," she said.

Two sides: Kamber said Kilbourne is trying to show the other side of alcohol, the one the media misrepresents.

"Jean goes through ad by ad, and when she's done we can look at the ads more critically," Kamber said. "They're (media) selling us an image, and they're selling us something that is not particularly good for us."

Kamber said she didn't know if the problem with advertising could be rectified, but that Kilbourne is trying to make the public more aware of it.

"We may or may not be able to do anything about the ads, but we can educate the people so when they see them, they understand what advertising is all about," she said. "The images they're trying to sell us are not necessarily what we're buying into."

Many problems: Kamber also said that alcohol causes over 100,000 deaths a year, costs American society about \$120 billion a year, and that one out of three Americans say that in some way it has caused trouble in his family.

"Alcohol remains the most abused drug in the country," DeBenedictis said. "It's a huge problem that people still have difficulty rec-



File photo

JEAN KILBOURNE will speak at NECC on Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

ognizing."

The fact that people don't use alcohol in moderation also creates many problems, Kamber said.

"It causes incredible damage to people physically, emotionally and financially," she said. "It also tends to be the cause for family breakups."

Others affected: Kamber said many people become involved when someone has a drinking problem.

"We now recognize that alcoholism isn't just a problem for the alcoholic, but also for the family, friends and employers," she said. "These problems sometimes go on for generations."

Kamber believes the alcohol industry's advertising is aimed at young people, and said 4,000,000 teenagers have a drinking problem.

"Kids are impressionable and tend to believe what they see on TV," she said. "There is a very subtle message that this (drinking) is OK, this is fun."

DeBenedictis also said a target group exists in advertising.

"Alcohol is pushed at the population at large, but in particular toward young adults like on a college campus," he said.

Additional activities: An alcohol awareness fair at the Lawrence campus will coincide with Kilbourne's presentation, and DeBenedictis said the focus will involve showing people an alternative, healthy lifestyle to alcohol and drugs.

After the presentation, Kamber hopes people will look at the advertising of alcohol through different eyes.

"I hope people develop a new awareness," she said. "We need to take a careful look at what advertisers are trying to do, and look at ads more critically."

For more information, call 374-3955.

Wrong image

"Alcohol is advertised in a way to make people feel beautiful and sociable," Kamber said.

Dirty hands

Retirement may give Fice chance to keep hands clean

By **KAREN HOPKINS**
Observer Staff Reporter

"I wasn't afraid to get my hands dirty," said Ed Fice, when asked how he got his start in the NECC graphics department.

Fice, who retired after 27 years at NECC, recently discussed his time at the college and his plans for the future.

Fice was originally hired as a fireman/janitor and worked in that capacity for many years until the college decided to upgrade its print shop and do the college's printing in-house.

He had a knack for keeping the machines up-and-running and was asked to run the new NECC graphics department.

"I took the job on the condition that I could return to my old job if things didn't work out," he said.

Things did work out, and the print shop Fice is leaving after 18 years has expanded with about three times the equipment.

Volume of work: "Quadruple times 10 the volume of work," added Fice.

"Just about everything that is printed on campus is done by the graphics department. We print enough brochures to sink two battleships."

According to Dean of Administration Joe Brown, the school has spent approximately \$100,000 over the years to expand the graphics department basically because of Fice's ability.

Fice has also taken on the additional responsibility of supervising the Secretarial Support Center, which does most of the typing for the faculty.

Tests and other materials students receive in class have most likely been typed by the

secretarial support center and printed by the graphics department.

"Ed has been known to be quite gruff and even though he might complain a mite when a dean like myself comes into his room and says I need this book printed by tomorrow morning... he has always done an outstanding job," Brown said.

Long hours: This has meant putting in long hours. Now that Fice is retiring, he is looking forward to spending time with his wife, taking day trips or just staying up late to watch television.

Another person who is familiar with Fice's work ethic is Betty Coyne, director of the counseling center. A frequent user of the print shop services, she had nothing but praise for Fice.

"One word that comes to mind is dedication - above and beyond the call of duty," she said.

"We have always found Ed to be extremely competent, thorough and quick in completing his excellent work. He is a major loss to the college and we will surely miss him."

She won't be the only one to miss Fice. Janice Alestock, who will be taking over for Fice, has worked with him for 14 years.

"Betty Coyne calls us Edith and Archie Bunker," said Alestock, with a big grin. Clearly Alestock and Fice share an acerbic but caring rapport, with lots of humor and good will between them.

On his last day at NECC, friends and co-workers gathered in the library conference area to bid a fond farewell to a gruffly amiable man, who, through his dedicated hands-on approach to work, is leaving NECC the legacy of a first-rate graphics department.

Money questions continue for many college students

By **JULIA FAIRCLOUGH**
Observer Staff Reporter

This past year, \$31 million has been distributed to students receiving financial aid. Yet, each year many students do not apply for aid because they think they are not eligible, or they are misinformed about student financial regulations and procedures.

The Financial Aid Form (FAF) is the only application necessary for the college's funds, and is required to determine financial need prior to approving a Stafford Loan or Supplemental/PLUS loan application.

This tedious and intimidating form can be conquered, said Dick Pastor, director of financial aid.

Long process: It is a long process and complicated. The biggest frustration, he said, is that people do not read the material before filling out the application.

They jump into it without knowing what they are doing, Pastor said.

"People make too many assumptions," he said. "They have to talk to the Financial Aid Office."

Out of the 1,500 people who came to the fall orientation, only six visited the financial aid office.

Applications for the 1991-92 academic year are now available, and should be completed by April 1 to insure the lead time necessary to complete the processing before bills are due early August.

Students who file by the deadline will be awarded funds based on financial need.

According to the government report the Financial Aid Office has to submit each year, 56 percent of the recipients are independent students.

The average income for the independent student was between \$7,000 and \$9,000.

For a family with one person and one dependent, the average income was \$2,100

to \$2,700.

According to the estimated 1990 income limits necessary to qualify for the Northern Essex Campus-based financial aid programs are estimated as follows: \$14,000 for the independent student, and \$20,000 for the independent with one dependent (such as a child).

Daughter to support: Asked what the major factor was in her receiving financial aid, NECC student, Stacey Antonakis said, "My income, plus the fact that I have a daughter to support."

Another NECC student, Tracey Voisine, also said she had a daughter and that was a major factor for her receiving financial aid as well.

"The forms weren't too bad, but getting answers were confusing. They don't have enough help in the office," Antonakis said.

She said the paperwork seems to go in a continuous cycle, but she made sure she filled out the forms in advance.

She advises students to make sure to apply early and to keep checking in at the office to make sure they had everything done because sometimes some additional forms must be completed.

Don't put it off: "You have to follow up, because if you wait too long, it will be too late," Antonakis said.

"If you have any questions try to get them answered," Voisine said.

"The hardest part is understanding what the question is," Pastor said.

"The student goes into the office without a clear understanding of what they are asking, and their question is never answered," he said.

"They must be specific and put the question in context," he said.

For more information, visit the Financial Aid office, located on the second floor of the B building, or call 374-3650, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Missile a hit

Campus celebrates return of Persian Gulf War vets

By HELEN UBINAS
Observer Editor

As a marine color guard unit from Lawrence presented colors at the recent NECC veterans homecoming celebration, approximately 100 attendants stood at attention.

NECC kicked off Veterans Awareness Week with a welcome home celebration for student Saudi Arabian veterans.

Gov. Weld proclaimed Sept. 23-28 Veterans Awareness Week, and NECC took the opportunity to welcome home its own.

As Dave Morin greeted the students, their friends, and families, he reflected on more frustrating times.

Service rewards: "Welcome back," he said. "I've waited so long to say that. We felt sorry about many of you losing your education, but we're going to try and make it up to you."

NECC student veterans received citations for their service in the Persian Gulf, as did Dave Morin, president, and Nancy Sabin, adviser, of the veterans and servicepersons organization, for their support and work with the veterans before and after they left for the Gulf.

John Dimitry, NECC president, congratulated them for their effort and leadership during the war.

"It takes people from the grass roots to get things going," he said.

In keeping with the celebration, a special showing of a life-size Patriot missile was donated by Raytheon's missile system division.

Patriot missile: Among the

guests were Rep. James Miceli; Marjorie Goudreaux, chairperson, NECC board of trustees; Joseph Glaser, retired Raytheon corporate vice president and plant manager; and mayor Theodore Pelosi.

Dimitry expressed his appreciation to Raytheon for its "fine job" in defense to the country.

"We are very filled with pride that a local company has been involved in building the missile," he said.

Miceli expected the Patriot to be larger.

"It's surprising that something that small could be so effective," he said.

Glaser, however, congratulated the troops for the success of the missile, rather than the missile.

"We're extremely proud with the way the veterans worked with the Patriot," he said.

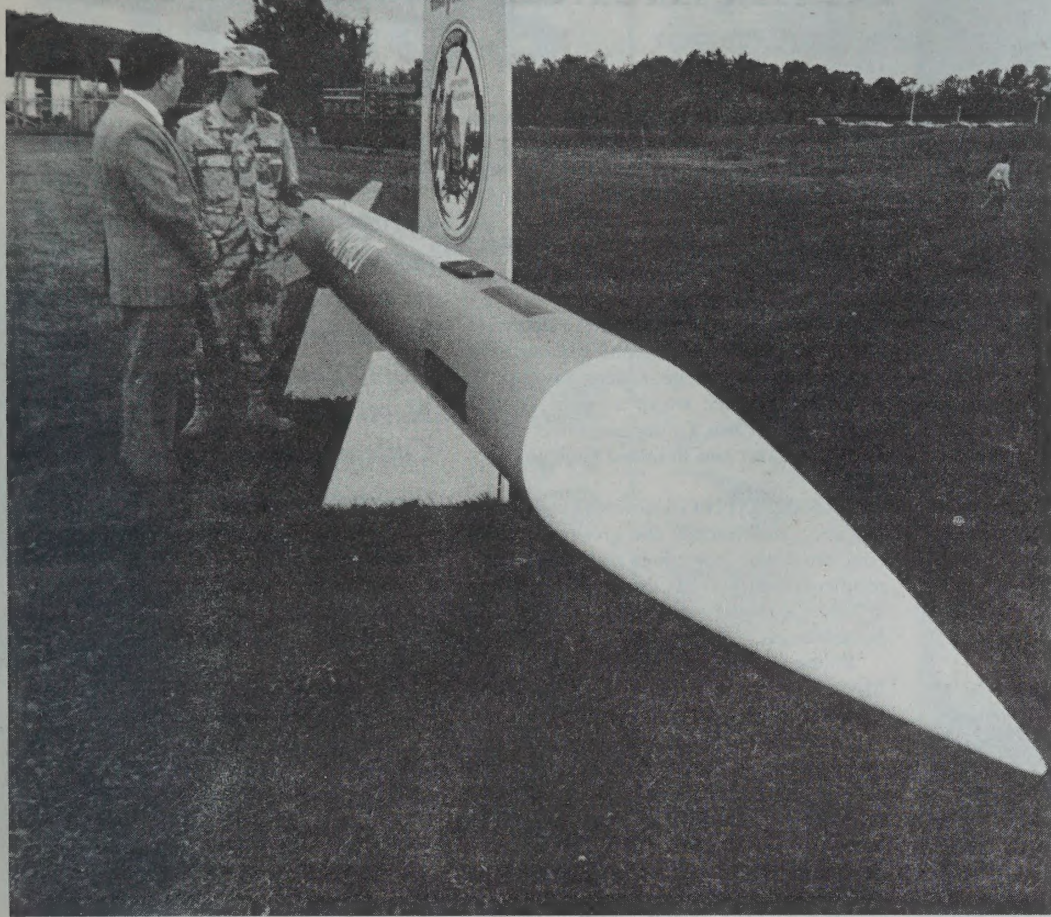
Education and war: According to Dave Morin, 26 students left NECC during the 1990-91 academic year to serve in the Persian Gulf.

Fifty-three are enrolled at the college.

Approximately 10 students accepted certificates of appreciation from NECC.

Many were unable to attend the ceremony because of conflicting schedules and previous engagements.

As one veteran stepped off the platform and gave the crowd a thumbs-up sign, one attendant smiled and said, "The boys are home."



Patriot arrives on campus

Chris Evans photo
NORM LANDRY, dean of student affairs, and a student veteran discuss the Patriot missile donated by Raytheon.



C. J. Armstrong photo
JOHN DIMITRY congratulates Dave Morin and Nancy Sabin for their dedicated service to the student veterans at NECC.

Not everyone happy

Patriot missile provokes opposing opinions

By HELEN UBINAS
Observer Editor

While some anxiously awaited the NECC "Welcome Home" celebration for Saudi Arabian veterans, others were dismayed over certain details.

Ron Koontz, an NECC student and Vietnam veteran, wanted to help the veterans club in the celebration until he discovered a Patriot missile would be displayed on campus.

Koontz discovered the plans during the first club meeting, but others were already aware of Raytheon donating the missile.

Dave Morin, Veterans and Servicepersons Organization president, said a committee worked on the celebration plans throughout the summer.

Different opinions: During that time, he was approached by NECC representatives and asked about having the Patriot missile on campus.

"I told them I could never make that decision alone," he said.

"I discussed it with the committee, and they agreed to it

under the condition that it was not used in conjunction with the celebration... just for viewing."

Koontz disagrees with the decision.

"I totally agree with a celebration welcoming back the veterans for a job well done," he said.

"But, I think when you start bringing a defensive/offensive missile on campus, you're running into problems."

Pride or publicity: Nancy Sabin, faculty adviser for the club, said she didn't understand Koontz' concerns because the missile was just a model.

Koontz said having the missile on campus glorifies Raytheon more than the veterans.

"I think Raytheon is waving its own flag," he said. "These missiles have been hauled around for a while...that's fine, but how long are they going to blow their own whistle?"

Sabin said the school approached Raytheon, so publicity isn't a viable argument.

Who won the war?: Morin agreed that Raytheon wasn't looking for publicity.

He said as a result of the missile,

all 26 of the NECC student veterans came back unharmed.

"I'm not saying the missile alone saved the war," he said. "It was only brought on campus with the intention to educate people."

Sabin agreed and said students are alive today because of it.

Accordingly, Morin set up different time slots for viewing the missile and celebrating the veterans' homecoming.

Persistent opinions: While Koontz' stance on the issue remained the same, so did Morin's endorsement.

"I felt Dave was really for it," he said. "That's fine, because he's entitled to his own opinion, but I want to know what kind of thinking was done to rationalize the decision."

Koontz, however, felt obliged to voice his concerns.

"I raised my hand at the meeting because I had a real problem with a missile being associated with the veterans club."

Koontz said Morin explained the club was not being associated with the missile, but rather that the president talked to Raytheon, and it became OK at that level.



Honoring America's vets

C.J. Armstrong photos
MARJORIE GOUDREAUX, chairperson, NECC trustees, talks with Rep. James Miceli and Rep. Brian Dempsey, above. Color guard at ceremony, left.

"I guess it was sort of like, what the president wants he gets," he said.

Freedom of speech: Despite being the only visible protester, Koontz said he wasn't alone.

"I spoke to other vets and they were against it, too," he said.

Besides writing to newspapers, Koontz showed his disapproval by posting signs around campus.

The signs didn't stay up for long, however.

Morin took them down after

discovering they weren't approved by the student activities office.

Follow the rules: "The beauty of America is that there's freedom of speech," he said.

"But people have to go by the guidelines set by the school."

Despite taking different stands on the issue, all parties involved appreciate the others' opinions.

"What shocked us was that he was a vet," Morin said. "But then I stepped back and realized he's an American first."



Group works to help serve public interest

Activism still alive and well for many colleges

By PASQUALE SICO
Observer Staff Reporter

Contrary to popular belief, student activism did not disappear after the '60s.

Student activists are still working for change in colleges around the country. Northern Essex is no exception.

MASSPIRG, which has chapters at NECC and 27 other Massachusetts colleges, is one such organization.

Get involved: "MASSPIRG is a statewide consumer and environmental organization that seeks to get college students involved in political issues that are of a public interest nature," said Chris Young, organizer of the Northern Essex and Bradford College chapters.

While MASSPIRG deals with a wide range of issues, traditionally the group has been concerned with consumer rights and environmental issues. It has also recently become involved with the problems of hunger and homelessness.

Young points to many instances in which MASSPIRG has played a major role in getting legislation passed.

"MASSPIRG helped pass the lemon laws for cars, which protects consumers from bad car loans," he said. "Last year, we were responsible for the clean air act in Massachusetts. We also put on a number of informational programs about consumer issues."

Polluter's tax: The group is working on a recycling initiative as well as a Polluters Pay Tax, which it hopes will hold industries using large amounts of toxic chemicals accountable for the payment of the toxic waste cleaning effort.

Service group

"MASSPIRG is a statewide consumer and environmental organization that seeks to get college students involved in political issues that are of a public interest nature," said Chris Young, organizer of the Northern Essex and Bradford College chapters.

"The thing about MASSPIRG is that it really tries to work within the system," said Young. "We're definitely different from Greenpeace and Earth First and groups like that, which are much more radical. We are more civic-oriented. We want people to be more responsible. We think that the democratic system is good so we want to use it."

While he is very pleased with the amount of interest on campus, Young feels that students could be an even more important factor in the political forum.

Power of the people: "I think that if students got together, mobilized, and organized, we would be able to clean up a lot of problems," he said.

Anyone interested in becoming involved is encouraged to leave a note in MASSPIRG's mailbox, which is located across from the Student Activities Office.

Citizens sign petition at downtown Haverhill

Chris Evans photos

VIRGINIA HEUSSER and Joanne Smith work on a MASSPIRG initiative to help bring recycling and toxics to the 1992 ballot, above. Anna Baillargem and Anna Sanabria try to collect 5,000 signatures for NECC's MASSPIRG division, right.



Several ballot petitions pushed by MASSPIRG

By DAWN-MICHELLE CLAYTON
Observer Staff Reporter

MASSPIRG, Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research group, is petitioning to have two initiatives dealing with recycling and hazardous waste put on the 1992 Massachusetts ballot.

The recycling initiative will set standards for packaging made in and brought into Massachusetts to meet by 1996. These

standards say all packaging must be made up of 25 percent or more recyclable materials, packaging must be made out of materials already being recycled in the state, or be reduced in volume. Packaging material would only have to meet one of these standards to be usable in Massachusetts.

Decrease trash problem: The initiative will help to decrease the trash problem in the state, of which one-third is packaging materials.

The initiative dealing with hazardous waste will put and excise tax on industries that produce hazardous waste. That tax will go into a fund for hazardous waste cleanup.

Students from colleges and universities across Massachusetts are participating in the petitioning. Seventy students attended the petitioning campaign kick-off on Sept. 21 in the Boston office, as they petitioned in the towns surrounding Boston.

MASSPIRG needs to gather 235,000

signatures in order to get the initiatives on the ballot. They have gathered 13,000 signatures, 8,000 of which have been raised in the Boston area.

Top 10: Two of the top 10 signers of the petition were Gov. William Weld, and Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci.

The initiatives are being pushed through the Massachusetts Legislature. If the state does not pass the bills by the 1992 election, the initiatives will be put on the ballot.

Recycling program to be reexamined next semester

By RICHARD HOYER ELLEFSEN
Observer Staff Reporter

The company that collects NECC's recyclable paper has reported it is picking up less paper this year than last year.

"Last year, (our people) used to come two times a week to empty the containers, and this year they only need to come once," said Les Anderson, head of the NECC project at C.L.A.S.S., an agency that employs handicapped workers to sort and collect white waste paper.

Anderson said he does not know the reason for the decline.

Joseph Brown, dean of administration,

said he suspects the decline may be because it is still early in the semester, adding that more paper will probably be generated as the semester progresses.

Initial attempt: The program was first considered a few years ago, but was thought to be inefficient because the paper had to be 98 percent pure, Brown said.

Last year, NECC's Student Environmental Coalition approached Brown and again suggested starting the program.

After reviewing the methods employed to recycle paper at Merrimack College, Brown and the club began NECC's own program. They targeted the largest producers of plain, white, waste paper - mainly the graphics and

computer labs, areas around photo copy machines, and clerical offices.

But some feel that there is more to be done. Anderson said he felt it would benefit his organization if there were more paper to be collected because it would give his people more work and save more trees.

More efficient: Priscilla Cairra, NECC computer programming professor, said that a change from Data General computers to personal computers (PCs) in three sections may have contributed considerably to the reduction in the amount of waste paper generated because the computers are more efficient.

She also said that she had been forced to

make her own container for paper to be recycled because one had not been provided. Each time the people come to collect the paper, she has to call them over and have them empty her cardboard container, she said.

"When they came around and handed out the containers, there were not enough for everyone, and many of these offices do not have one," she said. "I think every office should have one, and every classroom, too."

Brown said that there would be discussion at the end of the semester on how to improve the program, which currently recycles 15-20 percent of the white waste paper generated at the school.

"We're just getting our feet wet," he said.

Fall enrollment figures released

By DEBORAH O'NEIL
Observer News Editor

Larger numbers of students are taking fewer classes at NECC this semester, probably due to the increasing cost of carrying a full course load, according to Dean of Student Affairs Norman J. Landry.

"The head count is tremendously higher, but they're taking fewer credits," Landry said. "We don't mind it because the (strength) of our institution for the past 10 years has been our flexibility, unlike a lot of other sister community colleges."

Enrollment up: Enrollment figures are up by nine percent over last fall, totaling about 780 more students. Students are continuously enrolling in the evening program, which will also boost the head count, said Landry. The

anticipated enrollment for the fall is expected to reach 10,000 students.

Although there is a higher head count, the total of full-time equated (FTE) students remains only slightly higher than last fall. Landry said this is important because this year's budget, confirmed this summer, was based on a projected level enrollment with last year.

Tuition charges for Division of Continuing Education (DCE) courses have been increased for out-of-state students for the first time. In addition, in state day course tuition and fees were increased this fall, all contributing to the number of students taking fewer classes.

Enrollment at the Lawrence campus was higher than expected, Landry said. More than 850 students are taking courses there, and



many of them don't even have to come to Haverhill at all for classes, he said.

"A lot of students have told me they decided to take all their courses there because they were able to," Landry said.

Convenient campus: "We were a little concerned that we were going to end up with

Fewer courses taken

"The head count is tremendously higher, but they're taking fewer credits," Landry said. "We don't mind it because the strength of our institution is...flexibility."

a segregated campus. It's not that way. They're calling it very convenient."

"A lot of other community colleges have suffered in enrollment," Landry said. "We've made a lot of difficult changes... despite that, we've not only maintained our enrollment, we're slightly ahead on our FTE."

Making strides

Working to win battle with cancer

By MELISSA CHOUINARD
Observer Staff Reporter

This year, as in the past, thousands of cancer victims have been fighting for their lives. With help, it's a fight they may someday win.

One such individual, a young man named Terry Fox lost his leg to bone cancer at 18. After undergoing chemotherapy, Fox wanted to educate people about the disease and help raise money for research.

He planned to run across Canada, coast to coast, calling it his "Marathon of Hope." Unfortunately, Fox was never able to finish his run. On June 28, 1981, the cancer that took his leg, took his life.

Still hope: All hope was not lost, however. The Four Seasons Hotel in Canada has kept Fox's legacy alive. When the hotel opened in Boston in 1986, it held the first of its now annual "Making Strides - The Terry Fox Run."

The run is a 5-mile "move-along-athon" around the Charles River Esplanade. Participants ask for donations. Unlike other marathons, however, the amount of distance covered is not important.

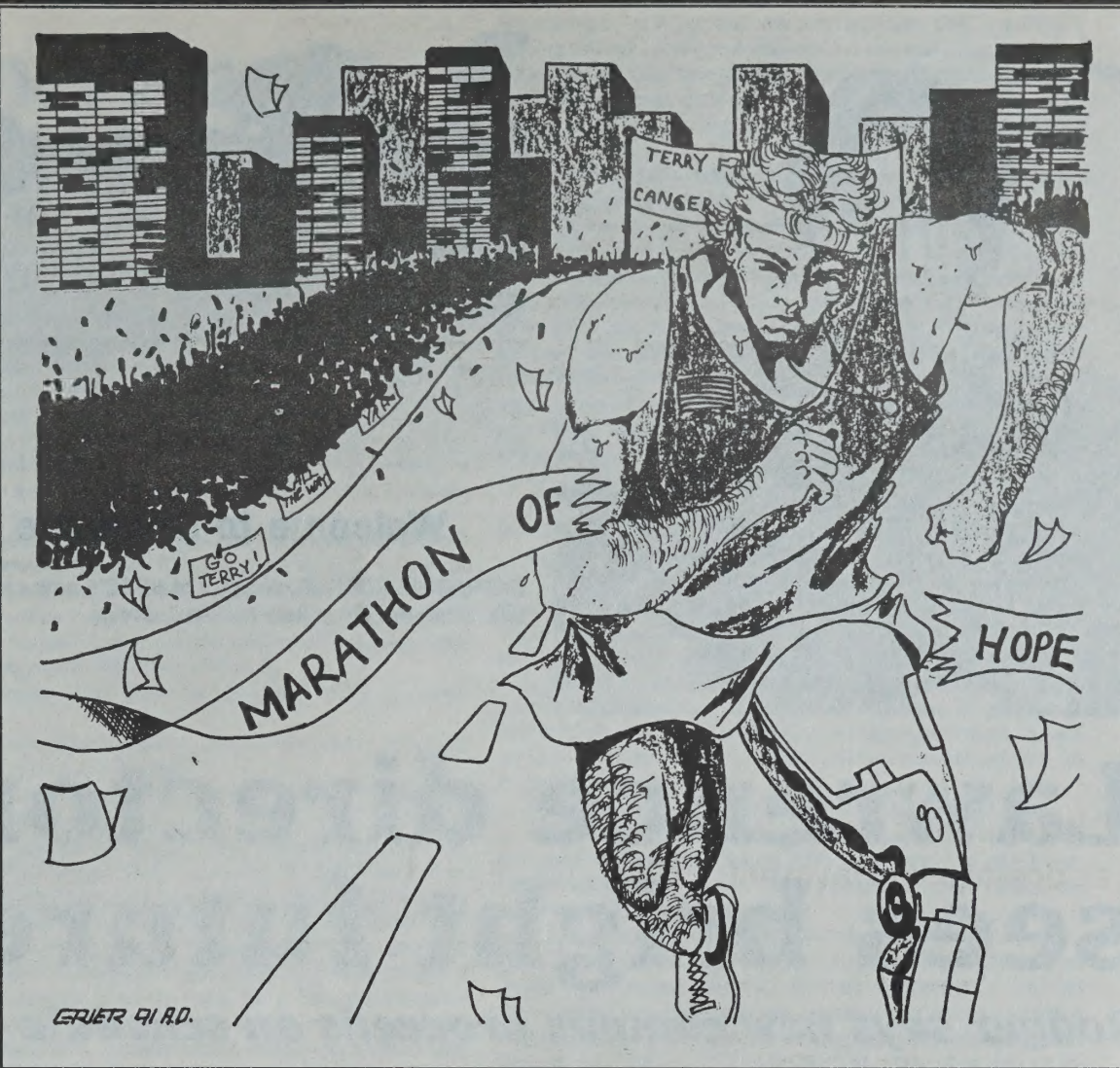
Because many of the participants are cancer patients themselves and undergoing chemotherapy, they cannot always finish the entire course.

The American Cancer Society has adopted this motto for its participants: "Crossing the finish line doesn't matter . . . crossing the starting line does."

Endless possibilities: Fox had a similar philosophy. "I just wish people would stop and realize that anything is possible if you try," he said. "Never give up on your dream."

The American Cancer Society and the Four Seasons Hotel encourage people to come out and try. One reason people may not get involved, officials say, is because they are afraid their donation is going to pay for a lot of red tape. This is not the case.

A spokeswoman for the American Cancer Society said,



"Eighty-three percent of all funds raised is distributed to the 42 local chapters. The money is used for patient support programs, transportation, and community awareness programs, such as the Great American Smoke Out."

Fund raiser: Last year, Dr. John Riecheld, of Riecheld Family Orthodontics, along with 350 people from the Greater Lowell area, raised \$19,000 for cancer research and programs, the most money raised by a youth organization in 1990.

Many such awards are given out every year. This year, the Riecheld Family is adding another to the list. The Robert Gauthier Memorial Award will be given to the person from the Riecheld group who raises the most money.

The award is given in memory of 8-year-old Robbie Gauthier, who died in August.

Margo Tisdale, of the Riecheld group, said, "He was a very special little boy, and he'll be really missed. He did Making Strides last year, three days after getting out of the hospital, where he was receiving a dose of chemotherapy. That should tell you what this day means to people like Robbie."

For more information, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-952-7664.

Fox's own words

"Never give up on your dream."

Placement office offers help in tough times

By JAMIE CRESPO
Observer Staff Reporter

With unemployment rates skyrocketing, NECC's Placement Office guides desperate job-seekers to employment.

Both NECC students and the general public can use the placement office to get a head start past other job-seekers.

"Companies are beginning to use a job agency or us (placement office) rather than putting an ad in the paper," said Abbot Rice, placement office director.

"Rather than having college students swarm a job opening, an employer prefers screening so the student will fit the job," he said.

Procedure: The placement office works like an employment agency. A student must fill out an application, including his or her schedule. This gives Rice important information, such as transportation problems, work availability, and job restrictions.

"The first question I ask a student is, 'What are you looking for?' and the worst answer I get is, 'anything'," Rice said. "We need as much information from students (as

they can give) so we can guide students to a job that best suits that student."

Rice then reviews job listings and tries to match that student with an employer seeking his or her skill. He then contacts potential employers and sets up interviews.

Saves time: Students fill out one application instead of several applications. They do not need to travel to a job unless an interview is set up, saving much time and aggravation.

Rice also sets up appointments so students have enough time to express their needs and to ask him any questions.

Job fairs are also provided for students. For the past five years, NECC has provided students and the general public an opportunity to meet various employers, ranging from fast-food restaurants to hospitals.

Job placement programs also benefit schools. They play a key role in student satisfaction, said Rice.

"Students should use the placement programs in schools," said Maria Cianciolo, NECC alumni, and UPS recruiter. "Many students need money to stay in school, so by finding them jobs, both the student and the school benefit."



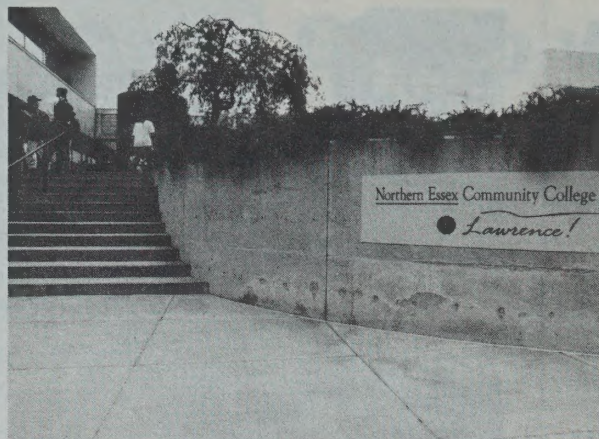
Chris Evans photo

ABBOT RICE, placement office director, assists people in getting a head start in the job market.

We want you to write a letter to the editor

Drop it off in the Observer office, F-125, today





Welcome to Lawrence

Chris Evans photos

KATHARINE RODGER, director of NECC's new campus, left. Students enter new building, above.

Lawrence director sees bright future

Rodger says new campus proceeds on schedule

By POE MARIO O'NORIS

Observer Staff Reporter

Editor's note:

The following interview was held with Katharine Rodger, director of NECC's Lawrence campus.

Q: Would you tell us a little about yourself?

A: I was born in New York City in 1942. My mother was a Mexican and my father was American, and for the first 13 years of my life I lived in New York. When I was 13, my family and I went to Mexico to visit my relatives - people who I had never met before. We fell in love with the country and I ended up staying there for six years.

During that time, I learned to speak Spanish and, tragically, my mother died. My father, who couldn't speak Spanish, was forced to return to the United States to make his living. My mother's relatives thought it was wise for my sister and I to remain in Mexico to further our study of Spanish. We stayed for four more years and I went to a Mexican boarding school, where I learned to speak Spanish, and I learned a lot about the culture.

When I graduated from that school at age 18, I went to work for a year for my uncle who had a factory of textiles and sheets. Then I decided to return to the United States. I was 19 when I came back, and I had to return to high school because the program that I had studied in Mexico was not "secundaria," it was a commercial course, so I needed a high school diploma.

Start over: I went back to high school and graduated when I was 21. I almost had to relearn English again because I had been living with Spanish for so long that I wasn't used to it. I graduated from a Midwestern college as a high school teacher in Spanish and worked for about four years as a Spanish teacher in Minneapolis, New York, and Long Island.

My husband and I moved to Lawrence, where he was the director of the International Institute of Lawrence and I worked for the Lawrence Public School system for six years. I worked at the Institute for four years, and then came here to Northern Essex as the director of the LEEP program and now the Lawrence campus.

Q: How would you compare your adolescence to typical American students?

A: I think my situation as an adolescent was different than the typical American student because as an adolescent I was living in Mexico. In fact, I remember very clearly, years of personal silent

misery because I was trying very hard to learn the language and there was nobody in the school where I was attending who spoke English. I floundered tremendously in Spanish, trying to understand people, trying to read a language that I didn't understand, studying courses that I couldn't understand. For two years, it was quite difficult. I guess you could say that I was dealing with problems of culture and language, which were more important to me at that time than the usual problems that an adolescent might have growing up.

Q: Would you tell us something more about your career?

A: When I graduated from college with my bachelor's degree, I spent six years as a Spanish/language teacher at the high school level, and I enjoyed that. When I came to Lawrence, I looked for a teaching job but there were none open at the time. So, using my Spanish, I went to work for the Lawrence school system to help the Hispanic children who could not speak English, and helping the English teachers who could not speak Spanish.

There was a very, very large problem between the two groups - they could not communicate with each other. I spent two years working on that and, interestingly, the person I worked with made me the director of a civil rights program that developed programs for children which reduced cultural isolation. I ended up working seven years in the Lawrence schools as an administrator working on desegregation and equalizing programs for Hispanic and American children.

Q: What was involved in founding the Lawrence campus?

A: There is an awful lot involved in founding a campus - a real campus of a college. Up until this year, the LEEP program, which was here for five years before we became the Lawrence campus, was only that - a program to a college. We pretended to be a campus, but we truly were not a campus.

It's a start: We lacked the staffing, we lacked the facilities. Now that we're suddenly - with this gift of the Prudential Building - a campus, so much more comes with a campus. We have the building, but we still need to learn to be as much like the Haverhill campus as we can, with all of the different services and programs and things that go along with being the Haverhill campus.

Q: What do you think about the budget cuts for higher education?

A: I think the budget cuts for NECC, in particular, have been very severe. It amazes me that we've been able to survive and continue as well as we have so far.

Q: Are there any plans to improve the noise problems at the Lawrence campus?

A: I hope, even by the time this comes out in the newspaper, the worst of these problems will be behind us. Part of the problem is due to our success. We had many more classes scheduled for Lawrence than we expected and the classes are much larger than they were intended to be. The partitions do not reach to the ceilings so we have serious noise problems going over the walls to each other.

Changes: The first thing we've done is to rearrange and reschedule all of the classes trying to see where the loud classes are and keeping them separate from the more quiet classes. Another thing that we've done is we've created three new classrooms in the building so we can move a class to every other room so we can leave an empty classroom space between every active class so that the noise level will be reduced.

Q: How is the campus security working out?

A: We're very proud of our officers. We have a very well-protected parking lot, and I feel very comfortable. They're courteous and friendly and very interested in the students.

Q: What about parking facilities for the students.



New beginning

Chris Evans photo

MARIA CEPEDA, Eugenia Peres, and Joselyn Cepeda talk in the courtyard during a break between classes at the new campus.

A: I believe we have one of the best parking lots in the entire city of Lawrence; however, we thought there were sufficient spaces for everybody, but that's not true. We have been overflowing this parking lot. President Dimitry has ensured that students will have safe and free parking so that those who cannot make it in the college parking lot are encouraged to park across the street in a city parking lot which will allow us to park there free. It's important to remember to have your parking stickers where the attendants can see them. Otherwise, you will be charged.

Q: Is there any plans for a cafeteria?

A: There are vending machines downstairs, so there is food available for students, but, we do not want to put a full cafeteria into the Lawrence campus.

Q: What about arts and sport as activities.

A: We have some art courses being offered, and when we finish with the remodeling of the building, there will be art studios in the basement. Sports is a problem because we don't have fields and a gymnasium here. The YMCA and YWCA, however, are offering us their facilities - not only for the students' personal use, but they're encouraging the college to schedule courses in the building and to use their pools, exercise rooms and gymnasium.

Q: How does the Lawrence staff deal with language barriers?

A: I think the most significant way that we help foreign students is by giving them the opportunity to learn English. Here, in Lawrence, I don't think that it is as difficult for them as in other places because the staff is very sensitive to foreigners. The Spanish-speaking students have additional support because many of the staff members speak Spanish. We also have a counselor who speaks Vietnamese for those students. We're culturally sensitive to the problems and frustrations students are finding as they learn another language.

Q: Do you think American students will benefit from the Hispanic influence?

A: Absolutely. I think one of the most important things that is happening here on the Lawrence campus is that the American student is probably coming closer to a person from a different culture than he is used to doing anywhere else. In Haverhill, we know that only 17 percent of the students are from a different culture. But in Lawrence, half the campus is from a different culture. There's a real mini United Nations here. Everyone seems to benefit from learning more about each other.

Q: What is the Academic Support Center?

A: It's where all students can go if they would like some additional help in reading, writing, and mathematics. For those students studying ESL, they also have the chance to receive some tutoring and counseling support.

Q: Would you like to add anything else?

A: Northern Essex is truly a community college campus. I feel it's extremely important that Lawrence realizes this college is for them as well as for us because education is the key, not only to the success of the individual but to the success of communities. Lawrence needs the key to success that I think Northern Essex can give it.

Katharine Rodger

on Lawrence's noise problems

"I hope, even by the time this comes out in the newspaper, the worst of these problems will be behind us. Part of the problem is due to our success. We had many more classes scheduled for Lawrence than we expected and the classes are much larger than they were intended to be. The partitions do not reach to the ceilings so we have serious noise problems going over the walls to each other."

Directora de Lawrence augura porvenir positivo

By POE MARIO O'NORIS

Observer Staff Reporter

Nota del editor:

Entrevista con Katherine Rodgers, directora de Northern Essex Community College en el campus de Lawrence.

P: ¿Podría usted narrarnos parte de su vida?

R: Nací en la ciudad de Nueva York en 1942. Mi madre era mejicana y mi padre estadounidense. Viví en la ciudad de Nueva York hasta los 13 años de edad, cuando mi familia y yo dimos un paseo a Méjico con el fin de visitar a familiares maternos — personas a las que aún no había conocido. Méjico nos encantó, por lo cual me quedé allí por 6 años. Durante ese tiempo aprendí a hablar español, pero mi madre falleció trágicamente. Mi padre, quien no hablaba español, se vió forzado a regresar a los Estados Unidos en pro de su autosubsistencia. Mi hermana y yo fuimos exhortadas por mis parientes a que continuáramos nuestros estudios de español en Méjico. Así lo hicimos. 4 años después ingresé a una escuela-albergue, donde gané amplios conocimientos de la lengua y la cultura españolas.

A la edad de 18 años me gradué de esa escuela, pasando después a trabajar con un tío mío, quien era dueño de una fábrica de telas. A los 19 años regresé a los Estados Unidos, donde tuve que volver a la secundaria. La última escuela de que egresé en Méjico no era de estudios superiores, sino de carácter comercial, por consiguiente yo necesitaba un diploma de secundaria para ingresar a la universidad.

A los 21 años de edad me gradué de secundaria. Tuve ciertos tropiezos con la lengua inglesa al principio. Había vivido un lapso de tiempo prolongado en español sin el uso del inglés. El tiempo transcurrió y me gradué en Maestría de Español a nivel de secundaria, y ejercí la profesión por 4 años en Mineápolis, Nueva York y Long Island. Tiempo después me mudé a Lawrence con mi esposo, quien fungía de director del Instituto Internacional de Lawrence. De esa manera trabajé para el sistema de Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence durante 6 años, y en el Instituto Internacional por 4 años. De allí vine a Northern Essex como directora del programa denominado LEEP, el cual se tradujo ya a lo que llamamos el "Lawrence campus".

P: ¿Cómo hubiese usted comparado su adolescencia con la del adolescente en los Estados Unidos?

R: Cuando era yo adolescente estudiaba en Méjico. El estudiante de los Estados Unidos difiere del mejicano en ciertos aspectos. No olvido cuando me trasladé a Méjico a los 13 años lo difícil que fue a escuela, donde nadie hablaba inglés, tratando yo de entender a los compañeros de estudios, en medio de un lenguaje que no comprendía; tomando cursos que no podía descifrar. Durante dos años fue en realidad muy difícil. ¿Por qué no decir que estaba yo obstruida por problemas de lenguaje y cultura? El vencer dichas barreras era más importante para mí en ese tiempo, que vencer aquellas que habrían de sobrevenir a través del resto de mi adolescencia.

P: ¿Podría usted enfocar aspectos importantes de su profesión?

R: Cuando fui maestra de español a nivel secundario siempre estuve satisfecha con tal ejercicio. De allí pasé a trabajar para el sistema educacional de Lawrence, donde mi función consistía en ayudar a los niños hispanos que no hablaban inglés y a los maestros

que no hablaban español.

Ambos grupos tenían problemas de comunicación. Después de dos años, dirigí el programa de derechos civiles que incluía programas suplementarios de desarrollo para ayudar a los niños a reducir su aislamiento cultural. De ahí se originó mi labor por 7 años como administradora de las escuelas de Lawrence, trabajando en programas de derechos de igualdad y "desegregación" para hispanos y estadounidenses.

P: ¿Cómo se forjó el campus de Lawrence?

R: Hubo mucho qué desear. El programa LEEP, que estuvo en Lawrence por 5 años antes de obtener este edificio, fue una lucha intensa — un simple programa —.

Nos considerábamos un "campus" educacional del NECC, pero en realidad era ilusiones. Carecíamos de un lugar y personal adecuados. Ahora, con este regalo de Prudential en pro de la educación, tenemos la seguridad de ser un ala viviente del NECC. No obstante, hay mucho que aprender de los servicios, programas y estrategias del sector NECC en Haverhill.

P: ¿Qué opina usted sobre la reducción del presupuesto educacional?

R: Exagerado. Me sorprende el que hayamos sobrevivido y el que todavía estemos funcionando.

P: ¿Existen planes para aminorar el problema del ruido el campus de Lawrence?

R: Sí, y espero que en los momentos en que esta entrevista salga al aire, ese problema ya esté en proceso de resolución. Pero miremos ese asunto como parte de nuestro éxito. Tenemos más clases de lo esperado; las aulas están habitadas propiamente. El ruido se debe a que las paredes no alcanzan el techo, pero hay planes positivos de solucionar el problema. Hay aulas en que el ruido es más pronunciado que en otras. Ese problemas lo estamos resolviendo provisionalmente dejando un aula vacía al lado de las aulas en que hay ruido. Para eso hemos creado tres nuevas aulas.

P: ¿Cómo trabaja el departamento de seguridad?

R: Magnífico. Estoy orgullosa de su personal. Poseemos un estacionamiento de autos bien protegido. Los guardias de seguridad son corteses, amistosos y sociables con los estudiantes.

P: ¿Tiene los estudiantes facilidad de estacionamiento?

R: Sí, tenemos para ellos uno de los mejores estacionamientos en todo Lawrence. Sin embargo, calculamos mal el espacio. Ese estacionamiento se abarrotó de autos de vez en cuando. El presidente Dimitri ha prometido a los estudiantes que todos tendrán facilidad de estacionamiento. Por consiguiente, aquellos que no encuentran un lugar vacío en nuestro estacionamiento, son invitados a dejar su auto al cruzar la calle Common, que es el estacionamiento de la ciudad. Es importante obtener derecho a estacionamiento que proveemos para que el asistente pueda aprobar su derecho a estacionar, de otra manera le cobrarán.

P: ¿No demanda este lugar una cafetería?

R: Hay máquinas aquí que llenan esos requisitos. No necesitamos una cafetería por el momento.

P: ¿Qué nos dice usted acerca de arte y deportes?

R: Estamos ofreciendo cursos de arte, y cuando terminemos de remodelar el edificio, el sótano estará preparado para ese objetivo. Allí se crearán nuevas aulas para enseñanza de arte. En el aspecto deportivo tenemos el problema de que este lugar resulta pequeño.

Sin embargo, las organizaciones recreacionales YMCA y YWCA nos han ofrecido ya sus comodidades, no solo para la participación de los estudiantes, sino también para nuestra expansión como centro educacional. Ellos nos han estimulado a programar cursos en sus edificios, y a usar sus piscinas, centros de ejercicios y gimnasios.

P: ¿Cómo afronta las barreras del lenguaje el personal educativo del NECC en Lawrence?

R: Opino que es significativa la forma en que ayudamos a estudiantes extranjeros, proveyéndoles de la enseñanza del inglés. Lawrence resulta más cómodo para muchos estudiantes extranjeros que cualquier otro lugar. Nuestro personal educacional es sensitivo a los problemas de estudiantes extranjeros. Los hispanos reciben aquí atención adicional debido a que varios integrantes del personal hablan español. Tenemos un consejero que habla vietnamés para conveniencia de estudiantes de esa nacionalidad. Aquí somos sensitivos a los problemas que puedan afectar a los estudiantes extranjeros a medida que éstos van aprendiendo una lengua que no es la suya.

P: ¿Cree usted que los estudiantes anglosajons podrían beneficiarse de la influencia hispana?

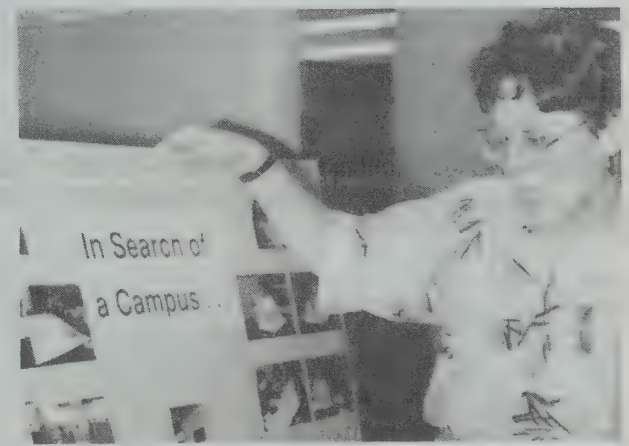
R: Absolutamente. Pienso que una de las cosas importantes que están sucediendo en el campus de Lawrence es que el estudiante estadounidense está compartiendo aulas con estudiantes de una cultura diferente. La cultura hispana aquí es más influyente que en cualquier otra universidad. Sabemos que en Haverhill hay solo un 17 por ciento de estudiantes provenientes de otras culturas. Por lo contrario, en Lawrence la mitad del estudiantado origina de culturas foráneas. Podríamos decir que estamos en el medio de una pequeña Naciones Unidas, donde cada cual aprende del otro los puntos positivos.

P: ¿De qué se trata el Centro de Apoyo Académico?

R: Dicho centro es el lugar apropiado para que los estudiantes encuentren ayuda adicional en lectura, escritura y matemáticas. Para estudiantes de Inglés Como Segunda Lengua (ESL), ese centro provee ayuda y consejería.

P: ¿Desearía usted añadir alguna información?

R: Para despedirme quiero expresar que Northern Essex es en realidad un campus comunal. Es muy importante el que los habitantes de Lawrence tengan en cuenta que este centro académico es, tanto para ellos como para nosotros, porque la educación es la llave, no solo para el éxito individual, sino para el triunfo de las mancomunidades. Lawrence necesita esa llave del éxito. Northern Essex puede proveerla.



Chris Evans photo

KATHARINE RODGER.

YMCA opens its doors to new campus

By AUDREY NICHOLSON

Observer Staff Reporter

The Lawrence branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA has opened its doors to NECC students and faculty by offering discounted memberships.

Michael LaChance, senior program director and resident/member services director, said the YMCA has been in Lawrence for 112 years and in its current location at 40 Lawrence St. for 80 years.

Coeducational for 15 years, the Lawrence YMCA serves more than 1,000 people of all ages. According to YMCA literature, 25 members have been with the Lawrence branch for at least 40 years, one of whom has been a member for over 60 years.

Several memberships offered: In addition to the NECC student and faculty discount, the Merrimack Valley YMCA offers individual, youth, and family membership plans. There is also a financial aid plan called "Access," for which anyone may apply.

Haverhill and Lawrence NECC students and faculty are entitled to the offered discount regardless of full- or part-time status. Students need to provide proof of enrollment, such as a student ID card or a schedule with the student's name on it.

The Lawrence branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA provides a wide range of facilities and programs, as well as formal and informal activities.

There are two gymnasiums. One is full-size, and the other is three-quarter size with an indoor running track one story above the floor. There are indoor racquetball, squash, and WallyBall courts, as well as an outdoor tennis court. There is an expansive weight room with exercise equipment, including bicycles, Air Dyne Cycle, NordicTrack, Stairmasters, Concept II Rower, and a 14-station Nautilus center. Also available is the use of the 20-by-60-foot indoor heated pool.

Many programs: "We have programs for everyone," LaChance said. Peak hours are pre-work, noon, and post-work hours for programs and informal groups meeting to play sports. The most popular with the 18- to 30-year-olds are the weight and exercise rooms, and basketball courts.

A full-time physical director is available, as is a varied staff, who will assist members with any level of physical ability and equipment knowledge. Individual programs can be tailored to fit individual needs, and members involved in physical therapy can have their programs coordinated with on-site rehabilitative facilities.

Addressing the issue of Lawrence's large bilingual population, Community Service Program Director Myrta Muldonado was hired in September, according to LaChance, "to help us do a better job of working with the Hispanic community in Lawrence."

Additional services and facilities are offered only to males because they are located in the men's locker area, and include whirlpool, sauna, steam room, and Universal Gym. There is a men's shower area and a women's shower area, both of which provide padlock-accessible lockers if members wish to bring their own locks.

A new brochure will be published soon, listing formal programs the YMCA will offer. In addition to adult programs, there will be programs for youth, and expectant and new mothers. Various childcare services do fall under financial aid guidelines.

Open to all: The YMCA is open to men, women, and children of all ages, incomes, abilities, races, and religions.

Staff at the Merrimack Valley YMCA is excited that NECC is a part of Lawrence. Tours will continue to be available to those who would like to see the facilities, and students and faculty are encouraged to drop by.

"The YMCA is open to everyone and everyone is welcome," LaChance said. "Anyone who walks in the door can feel comfortable going to any one of the staff."

Additional questions can be directed to the Merrimack Valley YMCA Lawrence branch at 686-6191.

Easily accessible, the YMCA is located one-half mile from NECC's Lawrence campus. To get there from the campus, follow Franklin Street to Common Street to Lawrence Street. Parking in front of the building is limited, however, more parking is available around the corner on Lowell Street near the police station. Also, parking is available at St. George's Orthodox Church, 8 Lowell St., and a future security lot is planned behind the YMCA building.

Hours of operation: The facility is open Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Saturdays, from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., but is closed Sunday and most major holidays.

Athletic facilities available for use by students, staff

In addition to the NECC student and faculty discount, the Merrimack Valley YMCA offers individual, youth, and family membership plans. There is also a financial aid plan called "Access," for which anyone may apply.

Comic books aren't just for kids

Involved story lines and mature plots attract adult readers to comics

By JIM GOODWIN
Observer Guest Contributor

Comic books are changing. Once only for children, they are fast becoming popular with everyone.

Many of the current comics are even pushing younger readers out with their mature storylines.

Non-readers would be surprised at the involved storylines found in such comics as DC Comics' *Green Arrow* or *Sandman*. For instance, current issues of *Green Arrow* have dealt with such topics as the IRA, the rain forest and premarital sex, all hardly stories for children.

In Marvel Comics' *Punisher* an ex-marine turned vigilante fights crack dealers, gang violence, and child pornography, instead of a "super-powered bad guy."

Other titles like DC's *Sandman*, *Hellblazer* and *Shade*, along with Epic Comics' *Hellraiser* are less realistic, but still far from childish. These horror-based books are very abstract, creating a storyline hard for less-mature readers to follow.

Main focus: *Sandman*, a popular title among college students, has featured stories on the devil-fighting Sandman. It deals less with battles, however, focusing more on the writer and artists expressing their opinions on



Chris Evans photo

KRIS ROY and Nathaniel Wetmore find themselves drawn in by the *Punisher*

subjects. *Hellraiser* is more of the same using characters from the Clive Barker movie and book of the same name.

Even super-hero titles have changed. Instead of the all battle issues, there is more focus on relationships the characters have

formed and the everyday problems they face. Marvel Comics' *X-men*, *Daredevil* and *Excalibur*, along with DC's *Legion '91* are all quite famous for this trait.

In *Legion '91*, there are battles, but the focus of the book is how the leader, Dox,

manipulates the various other characters, including Stealth, the mother of his son. Entire issues of this book are devoted to stories like the above-mentioned child and the adjustments the recruits have to make.

In *X-men*, there is an emphasis on developing the maturity of some of the younger characters, Iceman and Jubilee, as they struggle to cope with the pressure of being hated for their differences from "normal" humans.

Prejudice: Romantic interludes among characters are also focused on with Scott Summers' *Cyclops* and Jean Grey's *Marvel Girl* leading the pack. *X-men*, however, is most famous for its dealings with prejudice. It's not black versus white, but rather, human versus mutant, showing us how desperate our culture is to feel superior to anybody.

Comic books provide an exciting, insightful diversion to people of all ages and tastes. From hard-nosed reality stories to horror to good old-fashioned slug-fests, comics provide something for everyone.

Fun for all

Comic books are still fun to read, but they are no longer just for kids. They provide an exciting, insightful diversion to people of all ages and tastes. . . comics provide something for everyone.

Observer Briefs

Nursing professor wins nat'l award

NECC faculty members Dolores Jean Haritos and Flora S. McLaughlin were recently recognized in the first edition of *Who's Who of Nursing Education*. The publication acknowledges the individual achievements and contributions nursing educators make to their profession.

Bedford resident Haritos, director of nursing education, holds a master's degree in nursing from Boston University, and a doctorate in education from Boston College.

A former colonel and historian in the U.S. Air Force Nurses Corps, Haritos has received numerous honors and awards, including The Meritorious Service Medal, awarded by the U.S. Air Force Nurses Corps for outstanding leadership and service; The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Citation for Outstanding Performance; and the Massachusetts/Rhode Island League for Nursing Citation for Outstanding Leadership and Innovation in Nursing Education.

In addition, Haritos developed the first registered nurse evening program in New England and published the nursing journal, *The USAF Nurse Corps Documents its History*.

McLaughlin, licensed practical nursing program coordinator, holds a master's degree in education from Fitchburg State College. She is a past winner of the Massachusetts Pride in Performance Award, and is a Lowell resident.

Medical assistant students pinned

NECC recently held a pinning ceremony marking the graduation of 13 students from its Medical Assistant Program.

President John R. Dimitry welcomed the guests and congratulated the students on their successful completion of the program requirements.

Dr. Matthew Cushing delivered the address. A resident of Andover, Cushing has practiced medicine for over 34 years. He serves as counselor to the Massachusetts Society of Internal Medicine, and vice president and treasurer of the Northeast Medical Provider Organization, PruCare System. He has been an advocate of the education of allied health professional and also serves on NECC's Medical Assistant Program Advisory Committee.

Students were presented by Dr. Paul

Bevilacqua, division chairperson of the Division of Human Services and Health Professionals, and pinned by Joan Hagopian, Medical Assistant Program coordinator.

Each student was presented with a long-stemmed rose by the Merrimack Chapter of the American Association of Medical Assistants in recognition of their achievement.

A reception followed the ceremony.

Students pinned included: Kim Cordeiro, of Groveland; Kathryn Denesowicz, Regina Gooding, and Nicole Horner, of Haverhill; Barbara Dow, of Newburyport; Barbara Griffith and Cynthia Owens, of Amesbury; Laurie MacDonald, of Andover; Lynda Murphy, of North Andover; Ann Ferron, of Chelmsford; Shirley Harwood, of Salem, N.H.; Jill Kennedy, of Hampton, N.H.; and Juanita Reynolds, of Atkinson, N.H.

English professors present papers

NECC faculty members Marjorie Martin, professor, department of English, and Mary Harada, professor, department of history and government, recently participated in the 21st annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association.

The association was founded to study thoroughly and seriously those media productions, both artistic and commercial, designed for mass consumption.

The founders were convinced that this vast body of material encompassed in print, film, television, comics, advertising, graphics, folk culture and outdoor entertainment, reflects world values.

The meeting, which took place in San Antonio, Texas, served as a forum for members and guests to discuss current media projects and productions.

Martin, a resident of Lexington, chaired a discussion on video technique, titled *Production of the Literary Video: Picturing Prose, Poetry and Historic Places*. Using clips from the documentary video's *Concord: the Literary Years*, and *Whittier: A Portrait*, which she co-produced with Alan Foucault, instructional media, Martin discussed the process of creating programs such as finding funds, scripting, videography, touch-up, and voice-over narration.

Harada, a resident of West Newbury, analyzed Alice Mabel Bacon's book, *Japanese Interior*, in a program titled, *Women's Lives and Literature: Her Self Transformed*. During this panel discussion, various speakers interpreted largely autobiographical works and their role concerning women's lives as revealed in literature.

History discussion to focus on Moyers

There will be an informal discussion of a short paper about journalist Bill Moyers on Friday, Oct. 18, at 3 p.m., in the social sciences lounge, third floor, C-Building.

The paper, titled *Moyers on Washington: An Interview by Eric Alterman*, is short, the reading is easy, and Moyers' ideas are lively and provocative, said Arthur Barlas of the history and government department.

Free copies of the interview are available from Barlas, C-382, ext. 5894.

Former student named scholar

NECC graduate Jo Landers of Lawrence is attending Smith College this fall as an Ada Comstock Scholar.

The Ada Comstock Scholar Program allows non-traditionally aged students easier access to the college and provides additional career and academic advising.

Landers graduated from NECC last June with a computer-aided drafting certificate and in August with a general studies/commercial art degree.

While at NECC, Landers worked in the college's publications department and was named to the president's honor list. She also served as a peer tutor, note-taker, and frequent contributor to *Parnassus*, NECC's literary magazine.

Recently, Landers was named a certificate winner in the first annual President Emiritus Harold Bentley Memorial Scholarship Award, which recognizes excellence in oral communication skills.

While at Smith, Landers plans to major in math.

College to sponsor Czech trip this month

Area business people interested in establishing contacts in Czechoslovakia are invited to participate in a trip to that country Oct. 24 through Nov. 1.

Sponsored by NECC and two Czechoslovakian colleges, the nine-day trip will feature sightseeing tours throughout the Bratislava and Tatra mountain areas of Czechoslovakia, and meetings with Czechoslovakian educators, business people, bankers, and government officials, including the prime minister of the area.

Jean Poth, chairperson of the NECC business division and one of the trip's organizers, "We hope that trip participants will gain a better understanding of Czechoslovakian beliefs, customs, and manners, and establish the contacts needed to begin working with the Czechs on joint business ventures."

The trip will include a tour of Budapest, Hungary. The trip's price is \$1,100, including round-trip airfare, three meals a day and accommodations for nine days and eight nights.

Halloween Dance

Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.

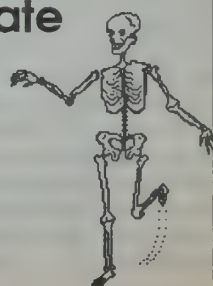
F-building/Tiled Lounge

\$4 cover, \$2 with costume

Prizes for worst/best costume.

Sponsored by: **Student Senate**

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Helping people

Math lab instructors work to rid their students of math problems

By DEBBIE DOWNING
Observer Staff Reporter

The Math Lab in C-211 helps students with problems ranging from basic arithmetic to advanced topics in calculus. Test anxiety and "math phobia" are addressed on an individual basis.

The center's staff includes Linda Murphy, Ann Coughlin, Carol Hay, Nancy Nickerson and Bob Hawes.

First effort: "We encourage students to seek help from their instructors first," said Murphy, who has been assisting at the lab for 10 years. "We encourage students to at least attempt to do their homework before coming in because then we have an idea of where to begin with a student."

The lab has resource material available to students, such as study guides, video tapes,

computer discs, and audio tapes.

"The center's atmosphere is friendly and sympathetic," said beginning algebra student Lisa Santiago. "The instructors are very competent and obviously enjoy helping students. Carol Hay was able to put me at ease and unraveled the mysteries of algebra. A problem that I had been working on for hours was made clear in moments."

Karl Blum is taking pre-calculus this semester and has spent time in the math lab.

Made easier: "The people here are great," he said. "I find the teachers can really help breakdown problems into terms that a layman can easily understand."

The center's services are available to all students on a drop-in basis. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday through Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.



Help awaits

Chris Evans photo

MIRIAM TULIAO, technical assistant, writing lab, assists student Miguel Rivera, above. Ann Coughlin, tutor, helps NECC student in the math lab, left.

Writing center aims to provide support

By TRACY MONAHAN
Observer Staff Reporter

Writing Center staffers guide hundreds of students through thousands of papers each semester.

"The purpose of the writing center is to help the student through all the stages of the writing process," said Suzanne VanWert, center coordinator.

Any student can use the center, but the largest percentage of students using the facility are the basic writing students.

Required time: "The basic writing students are required to spend 30 minutes each week in the center," VanWert said.

Lydia Vega, a first semester medical records student, was required to take basic writing.

"At first, I didn't want to take the class or

go to the center, but now I'm really glad I did," she said. "I've learned a lot and I think I will really benefit from the class."

Carl Smith, a graphic design student, has used the center a few times.

"I had a teacher that confused me as to what he wanted in an essay, so I went to the center and they helped me," he said.

Friendly help: "They make you feel comfortable and encourage you to come back if you need more help."

The center, located in C-203, is open Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Haverhill campus.

At the Lawrence campus, the center is open Mondays, 8:30 a.m. to noon; Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon; and Fridays, 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Campus Crime Log

STOLEN VEHICLES

Wednesday, Sept. 25 - At 4:45 p.m., an NECC student reported his black 1985 Chevrolet Monte Carlo missing. Merrimack Valley Guard Service searched the parking lots, but were unable to locate it. Haverhill police were called. The student stated he arrived on campus at 10 a.m. and parked on the back row near lot 6 because of the overabundance of cars. At 11 a.m., he moved his car to the front row of lot 5.

Wednesday, Oct. 2 - Another black 1985 Monte Carlo was reported missing from lot 1.

ACCIDENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 24 - At 11:15 a.m., an NECC student went to her car to find another car wedged into her bumper. The students, 1987 Jeep Cherokee received rear bumper and fender damage. The 1985 Honda Accord belonging to the other student received front bumper and hood damage. After reviewing the damage, security officers decided Haverhill police should be called. According to reports, the Honda Accord apparently drifted across the parking lot and struck the jeep.

All students should be aware of any suspicious activity in the parking lots and report them to the security office in C-Building.

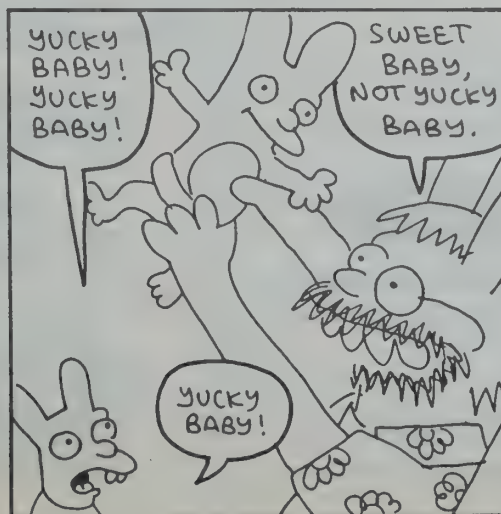
Look for more updated campus crime information in the next issue.

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LIFE IN HELL

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GROENING



Pogues march on

Singer Shane Macgowan 'falls from grace'

By **BILL BURKE**
Observer Arts & Entertainment Editor

There have been a number of influential and memorable moments in the music industry in the past decade. The death of John Lennon, the untimely passing of Stevie Ray Vaughn, and one simply smashing fashion statement put forth by Matthew and Gunnar Nelson.

These events have indeed touched our lives, but now we are forced to deal with a turn of events that even Nostradamus himself placed on a parallel with the coming of the third antichrist. Shane Macgowan has left the Pogues.

Now don't start with all that, "Who the heck are The Pogues?" rhetoric. As any self-respecting yet jaded music fan knows, The Pogues are by far the most brilliant band to ever come out of the beer-soaked pubs of Ireland.

Categorizing: Describing the music of The Pogues is not an easy task. Take one-part Irish folk music, one-part punk fury, one-part dark reality and one-part political sarcasm. Add a good measure of Guinness Stout, and then throw it all in the trash, because just when you think you've got a handle on what the band is doing, it changes directions completely.

Until recently, The Pogues were lead by the awkwardly charismatic Shane Macgowan. As lead singer and principle lyricist, Macgowan gave The Pogues a feeling of pure anarchy. The chaos, however, was often tempered with a somber sense of how life can be when you don't happen to be born with that silver spoon firmly planted between your teeth.

Songs like *The Sick Bed of Cuchulainn*, *The Old Main Drag* and *Dirty Old Town* describe the squalor and third-world conditions that exist in urban locals like London and Dublin. A sense of history is never far behind in a Pogues song, with *Young Ned of the Hill*, *London You're a Lady* or *The Battle of Brisbane* detailing the proud legacy that the Irish so strongly cling to.

Living on the edge: Perhaps the one subject most often tackled by the hard-living band is the battle with the bottle. *Streams of Whiskey*, *Whiskey You're the Devil*, *Boat Train*, *Fiesta* and *Bottle of Smoke* so successfully recreated the feel of

dizzy insanity, that The Pogues were soon well known for their drinking reels.

The album *Peace and Love* contained the song *Down all the Days*, which chronicles the life of the courageous Christy Brown. Brown was the subject of the 1989 movie, *My Left Foot*, and through this tune, the band proved that it was not merely an alcohol-obsessed rabble of hooligans, but a thoughtful and highly intelligent rabble of hooligans. With music far surpassing its competition in quality and integrity, the fact that mass appeal eluded the band often baffled its rabidly loyal fans.

Changes: Which brings us to the departure of Macgowan. On the up side, The Pogues may find themselves a bit more marketable. As anyone who has ever taken a good look at Macgowan's mug will attest, he is not one of the more attractive people on the planet. There is ugly, and then there is Shane Macgowan. When he opens his mouth to sing, his teeth (all three of them) give him the appearance of one who has recently been beat about the head and shoulders with a blunt object. His voice has been described as "gravely," which is a charitable way of saying that you can't understand a word

Difficult description

Describing the music of The Pogues is not an easy task. Take one-part Irish folk music, one-part punk fury, one-part dark reality and one-part political sarcasm. Add a good measure of Guinness Stout, and then throw it all in the trash, because just when you think you've got a handle on what the band is doing, it changes directions completely.

he's saying. Another way Macgowan's vocal style has been described is that he "sings like his mouth is full of potatoes."

Conversely, Macgowan's technique was part of the reason that The Pogues were so highly-revered by critics. This, coupled with the intelligent lyrics he so often produced, made him a sort of whiskey-soaked guru of the downtrodden.

Offbeat roles: In addition to a recording career, Macgowan is also fostering a budding movie career. His celluloid appearances have been on one hand forgettable, on the other, strikingly surreal. In *Eat the Rich*, Macgowan plays a confused terrorist who agrees to "straighten up" after being slapped around by a bruising politician. *Straight to Hell* saw not only the mush-mouthed singer, but the entire Pogues entourage playing a wild-west cowboy family.

Following in the footsteps of Elvis Costello, who tried his hand at producing a Pogues album and later marrying bass player Cait O'Riordan, the band never compromised its integrity.

So now, The Pogues have replaced the eclectic Macgowan. Who, you may ask, could possibly step into the shoes of such an enigmatic man? Well, comes the counter point, this person would have to possess the "toss-it-all" attitude of, say, The Clash. He would have to have the pent-up anger of a band like, oh, The Clash. And, most importantly, he'd have to have played the part of a deranged crook who, quite ironically, ends up shooting Macgowan in an obscure cult flick. Ok, maybe the last bit isn't all that important, but the man who is replacing Macgowan meets each of these unusual requirements. The replacement is former Clash frontman Joe Strummer.

Cut from the same cloth: If ever there was a perfect candidate for the role of a Pogue, it is without a doubt Joe Strummer. On another ironic note, Strummer, a long-time friend of the band, has time and again referred to Shane Macgowan as a "true visionary." On the 1990 home video, *The Pogues Live at the Town and Country*, Strummer joins the band on stage for a Gaelic infused version of *London Calling*, and spouts nothing but praise for the off-beat singer.

So The Pogues march on. Without their leader, yes, but nonetheless forward on tour. What will become of this incredible group of musicians, only time will tell. But, it could not have been left in better hands.

Now that the Poguetry 101 lesson is concluded, slap *If I Should Fall From Grace With God* on the CD player, toss back a pint of Killian's, and turn it up to 11 to wallow in the furious grace that is Shane Macgowan and The Pogues. After all, if Nostradamus predicted all of this, there's not a whole heck of a lot we can do about it except enjoy the ride. Shane, we hardly knew ye.

The Social Club Welcomes You

Meet friends, have fun,
help others, develop
leadership and social skills.

Social Club Meetings
Mondays 11 a.m. - noon
Room C - 113

Please join us



Come meet others
seeking the spiritual
life in Christ

OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Meeting time: Monday Oct. 12, C-303.
Contact Prof. James Gustafson, C-352
or Prof. Walter Drescher

Open Door, an NECC Student Activity, is affiliated with Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship

Stop Smoking Programs

All presentations are free and open to the public. For
more information, contact Judith Kamber, at 374-3955.

Hypnotism

by Jerry Valley, Licensed Hypnotist
Oct. 10, at 12, Library Conference Area:
Haverhill

Acupuncture

by Susan Kane, Licensed Acupuncturist
Oct. 17, at 12, Essex Room: Haverhill

Behavior Modification

by John Milligan, Director of SmokeFree
Oct. 24, at 12, Library Conference Area:
Haverhill

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\$5 per hour

Contact: Penny Kelley or Pat Rose
Room C - 201

Blues Traveler's strong effort

New release goes a long way toward establishing group in music world

By BILL BURKE
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Attention true believers:
Blues Traveler is back with its second album and the group has never been stronger. What's that? You didn't know Blues Traveler had a first album? Well go and buy it right now, and come back. I'll wait.
Blues Traveler is perhaps one of the brightest spots on the horizon when it comes to new talent on the music scene.
Travelers and Thieves is a musical tour de force straight from the soul. Lead vocalist John Popper, credited with vocals, harmonica, 12-string guitar, calymba and various barks, squeaks, growls and whistles, again explodes forth with his unique vocal style and insane harp.

Powerful mixture: Chan Kinchla lays down a steady and reliable guitar, with Bobby Sheehan and Brendan Hill rounding out the rhythm section. These four add up to a potent combination that is capable of producing music with a rare quality.

First off, the album does not sport a track with the hook of its previous single, *But Anyway*. This, however, does not mean the album is without a few memorable tunes. It is, in fact, loaded with them.

The first song on side one is *Onslaught*. A more appropriate title could not have been selected. Popper's rapid fire vocals come at you at just under the speed of light. The chorus is long, yet memorable.

Intricate rhythms: Without a doubt, the best song on the album is *Sweet Pain*. It utilizes an unusually metered dropped beat. To the casual listener, it may at first seem confusing. The song is going along fine, when out of nowhere this obnoxious snare hits you dead in the face. Once the groove is set, which is what it's all about with Blues Traveler, it's not as much confusing as it is challenging.

Music Review

Lyricaly, it's quite advanced. *If Cyrano De Bergerac fell prey to the blades of fifty men, with a heart and a sword he'd drive them back, perchance to see Roxanne's eyes light up the sky again.*

Thoughtful lyrics are par for the course with Blues Traveler. Popper is credited with all but one of the songs on the album.

Guest vocalist: The one song Popper did not compose lyrics for is *Mountain Cry*. This song comes under the tried and tested hand of Greg Allman, of the *Eat a Peach* Allmans. The southern rocker steps to the front to lend his gravelly voiced treatment to the Brendan Hill song. Allman is also credited with playing the Hammond B3 on the album, which has to say something about the heads Blues Traveler is turning.

The song *What's for Breakfast* tells of a situation many have found themselves in, hung over and feeling blue: *Well what a night, I don't remember much. Not to worry friend, I'm better off as such.*

With lyrics like these, it's not difficult to see that the boys have indeed written about that which they know.

The liner notes on *Travelers and Thieves* is another story unto itself. The first thing printed is a poem bearing the title of the album that takes you on a journey back to the days of high adventure. An interesting change from the typical: Thanks to Joe "blood and gutz" Smith, and to all our lovely groupies.

Celebrity backing: The number and scope of recognizable names credited with thanks ranges from the Jerry Garcia Band and Phish (break out the trampolines) to David Letterman. Last spring, Blues Traveler made its big time TV debut on the Letterman show to rave reviews. The show went a long way toward giving the band the exposure it needed.



With backing like that, Blues Traveler finds itself in an almost no-miss situation. While this may be, friends in high places alone will not make the band a success. (Remember the hair band Hurricane? I didn't think so.) The talent present in Blues Traveler is enough to put them at the top for a long time, the only obstacle being marketability. Let's face it, Popper may be a visionary, but it looks like somebody beat him with the ugly stick.

Buy it now: Do yourself a favor, now that it may be safe to assume that you are in possession of the first Blues Traveler album, keep the momentum going and buy the second.

What are you doing still sitting there? Every second you do not own *Travelers and Thieves* is another second that something as contrived as the New Kids may seep into your brains. Do it for the good of the country.

Sambora breaks loose in new solo release

By BILL BLAISDELL
Observer Staff Reporter

Music Review

Richie Sambora, well-known guitarist for Bon Jovi, recently released his debut solo album, *Stranger in this Town*.

Bon Jovi, the band: Since Sambora and Jon Bon Jovi announced they were going to do solo albums, everyone believed that Bon Jovi was breaking up. Sambora and Bon Jovi explained on MTV that they were each just going to do one solo album, and then Bon Jovi would be back in the studio working on the band's next album.

To Bon Jovi fans everywhere, don't worry about a breakup, because the group recently received the renamed Michael Jackson award for its dominance in the '80s, and it plans to keep its success rolling in the '90s.

Jon Bon Jovi's solo album was very successful, and included songs recorded from the movie soundtrack, *Young Guns 2*.

Sambora gone solo: Sambora's first solo album has not been in record stores that long, and probably won't sell nearly as well as Jon Bon Jovi's did, but the content is very good.

The only problem with *Stranger in this Town* is that most of the songs are either ballads, or are really mellow.

Sambora did all acoustic/electric guitars and vocals on the album. His backup band consists of David Bryan on keyboards, Tony Levin on bass, and Bon Jovi's Tico Torres on drums.

Stranger in this Town is a really good album, but the pace of the music seems to never change. There is no big song that sticks in one's mind, but the lyrics in some of the songs are overpowerful. Sometimes with these overpowerful lyrics, Sambora puts so much into his songs, he actually sings with too much feeling.

Best tracks: Most of Sambora's songs are good, but his best ones will get the listener to keep rewinding side one. Songs like *Church of Desire*, *Stranger in this Town*, *Ballad of Youth*, and *One Light Burning* attract the listener so much, it would be a shame never to hear side two, with songs like *Mr. Bluesman*, with Eric Clapton, *Father Time*, *Rosie*, and *The Answer*.

Sambora's album could have been a little better with a couple of heavier songs to support the ballads on the album. Other than

No diversity

The only problem with Stranger in this Town is that most of the songs are either ballads, or are really mellow.

that, his debut as a solo artist is very successful.

Future success: Look for *Stranger in this Town* to probably have two songs released as singles, and nothing more. You can't expect the listener to want to hear ballad after ballad from the same artist. After whatever Sambora releases leaves the record charts, expect the Bon Jovi to release its next album.

There will be a meeting of the
NECC Gay and Lesbian Alliance

Oct. 11, at 12
C-302

If you are interested in knowing more about the Alliance, please call 374-5880, or come by and see Paula Strangie at her office, C-370.

Behavioral Science Club

Mon., Oct. 21	 Hypnotherapy	 Tommy Vee Hypnotist
Mon., Oct. 28	 Understanding Homosexuality	 Cornelia Wals Therapist
Mon., Nov. 4	 Child Abuse	 Scott Daigle Social Worker
Mon., Nov. 18	 The Kennedy Assassination	 Professor Harry Bowen
Mon., Dec. 2	 Psychotherapy with Children	 Pat Murphy Child Psychotherapist
Meetings at 11a.m.-noon, in C-305 All are welcome !		

Arts flourish at firehouse

Newburyport's center for the performing arts opens

By JAIMIE CAMERON
Observer Staff Reporter

The debut season of Newburyport's recently restored Firehouse center is off to a fast start with a wide range of performances on tap for this season.

The performing arts center, housed in this historic building, contains a new 200 seat theater, artist gallery, community center, and restaurant.

Executive Director Anne Marie Scaletti is excited about this new beginning for an old building.

"The building has just finished being totally renovated and it is beautiful," she said.

Good location: The center is located in Market Square in downtown Newburyport, and being only 30 minutes from Haverhill, it's a wonderful alternative to the Boston theaters.

Housed in the center alongside the theatre, are an art gallery, showing works of local and national artists, and a restaurant, which will be opening for the holiday season. Local shops and eateries surround the center in Market Square.

The center and the gallery are open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. The theatre box office is open during these hours.

Ticket prices are relatively low, and the firehouse does offer discounts for seniors and students. Doors open for most performances at 7 p.m. Tickets may be purchased one hour before performances.

Many events: The following is a list of upcoming events. For more information, call, 462-7336.

Oct. 3-20, *Lend Me a Tenor*, by Ken Ludwig. Performed by the theatre of Newburyport. Doors open at 7 p.m., and tickets are \$12, Thursdays; \$14, Fridays and Sundays; and \$16, Saturdays.

Friday, Oct. 25, John Tavano, performance on classical, acoustic guitar. Tickets are \$8.

Saturday, Oct. 26, Patian Pyamtolsky on classical piano. She has recorded with the Boston Pops. Tickets range from \$10 to \$12.

Thursday, Oct. 31, (Halloween), Magician Peter Gross

Arts center opens

"The center is a beautiful and professional theater space dedicated to showcasing local talent..." Scaletti said.



Chris Evans photo

AFTER MANY YEARS, the firehouse in Newburyport opens to a full arts schedule.

Residents pull together to get center going

By MICHELLE GAGNON
Observer Staff Reporter

About 13 years ago, commercial builders were going to tear the Newburyport firehouse down, but thanks to concerned citizens (mostly members of the Development of Arts and Humanities), the building was saved for a community center.

Due to years of renovation, a large volunteer staff, six committees, and the administrative assistant, Anne Marie Scaletti, the building has become the Newburyport Performing Arts Center.

Many well-known companies have performed there and

the calendar is full this season. Perhaps one of the most popular events is the Yankee Homecoming, where some famous artists, including Chubby Checker, have performed.

"The center is a beautiful and professional theater space dedicated to showcasing local talent and the shows performed are a blend for the young, the old, and the in-between," Scaletti said. "The people of Newburyport who helped with the renovations love the center, and they feel a sense of pride and ownership about it."

The center is available for functions and conferences. There will be future opportunities for students to apply for internships as technical directors. Call 462-7336 for details.

Holiday Gift & Craft Show



Unique and personalized art, clothing, crafts, gifts and home decor



October 26, Saturday

10:00 am to 7:00 pm

October 27, Sunday

12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

at Northern Essex Community College

Haverhill, Massachusetts

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Monday, October 21
Outside the Gym

\$3.00 per Car
Sponsored by the NECC
Ski Club

Suffolk University and Mayor Flynn are pleased to offer a college seminar you can't afford to miss.

If you're concerned about how you're going to pay for college, it will pay to attend our *free* seminar on "How To Finance A College Education." Whether you are a high school student, a transfer student, or a working adult considering graduate or undergraduate studies, you will benefit from the program.

Marguerite Dennis, author of Barron's *Keys To Financing A College Education*,

and a panel of noted authorities will discuss a variety of subjects, including: Where and How to Find Financial Aid, Ten Tips on Applying for Aid, The Future of Government Funding, and 20 Ways to Reduce College Costs.

Space is limited so call (617)573-8647 today to reserve your place. Because with the costs of college these days, it pays to study a little finance.

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Saturday, October 19
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Suffolk University
Education that pays off.

Sign dance company shines!



Diana Zipeto photo

FORMER MISS DEAF America, Patti Brennan, performs in Signdance.

The sounds of dance

Poise, professionalism impress many in show

By DIANA ZIPETO
Observer Staff Reporter

The low noise level in the lobby of the gymnasium didn't seem to match the number of people there. Fifty or so people were waiting to see the Body Language Dancers, a dance group performing *Signdance*, a choreographed mixture of sign language and dance set to the beat of popular jazz and rock tunes.

The Body Language Dancers' presentation concluded the week-long celebration of deaf awareness.

The dance group's founder and artistic director, Maureen L. Boudrow, is also an NECC staff interpreter. The 12-member group was started in 1983 and is based in the Jeannette Neill Dance Studio in Boston.

Although the usually noisy activity that takes place in a lobby half an hour before a performance's beginning was going on, the transactions were made in near silence. The silence, however, wasn't quiet or timid. Rather, it was a silence alive with people who interacted using expression of face and the motion of hands.

Contrasts: Once inside the gym, the lobby's silence was sharply contrasted. Loud music and nervous anticipation filled the room, and the audience was chatting and settling down for a good show.

Also in the audience was the mother of Patricia Brennan, a Body Language Dancer. Called simply "Patty" in the program, she is a solo dancer in two of the songs in the performance and the only hearing-impaired dancer in the group.

Electric and dynamic motion lit up the

stage during the next 90 minutes. *Rhythm Nation*, by dance master Janet Jackson, started the first set.

Seven dancers lip-synched and hand-synched the words of the song, and danced in angular, athletic dance moves.

Vision of Love by Mariah Carey softened the mood, as Patty lip- and hand-synched her first song, pleading and reaching out to the audience. Though there was no volume in her voice, her emotion was heard in the expression of her face, and the thrusting of her arms.

Another highlight in the show was a breathless performance of Whitney Houston's *One Moment in Time*, danced by Brennan, Cynthia Fee, Wendy Fournier, Lesly Green and Jill Spiewak in white, floor length butterfly dresses.

Trouble spot: The show continued smoothly until the song *You Make Me Feel...* by Jimmy Somerville. The couple dancing, Jennifer Adams and Bryan Steele, began the song with sensuous and tempting moves. Near the middle of the song, however, Steele jumped and twisted, landing on his right leg and stopping the show.

Though the show went on, during a pause before the last number, Boudrow came on stage and said, "It's been a show we'll never forget."

And, indeed the show was an unforgettable display of the beauty of sign language and the expression of movement. The combination of the two made the evening come alive with artistic expression.

Local dance company performs well as part of campus Deaf Awareness Week

By MELISSA CHOUINARD
Observer Staff Reporter

Deaf Awareness Week was recently brought to a spectacular end with a production by the Body Language Dancers called *Signdance*.

Signdance is a form of dance choreographed incorporating sign language as the dancers sign the words to the songs while incorporating them into the dance.

The show was founded in 1983 by Maureen Boudrow, the show's director and choreographer, after a friend asked her to provide the entertainment for the Miss Deaf Massachusetts pageant. Boudrow has been doing it ever since.

Deaf dancer: All but one of the show's dancers are hearing. Patti Brennan, former Miss Deaf America, is hearing impaired.

"It's hard to find deaf dancers," Boudrow said. It's not a traditional thing for them to do. They are not encouraged to take dance classes growing up. It's not a strong part of their culture, although deaf people do like to dance," Boudrow said.

Brennan joined the group in 1988, after

the Body Language Dancers performed at the Miss Deaf Maine pageant, which she won. Brennan was asked to join the group after she was a guest performer at the group's fifth anniversary show. This is her fourth year with the company.

Accident: Although the night was filled with some dazzling performances, there was a sad turn of events through the course of the evening. During the performance of *You Make me feel* by Jimmy Somerville, dancer Bryan Steele dislocated his knee and had to be taken to the hospital. Fortunately, Steele did no serious damage, and he feels confident he will be performing in the group's next show.

Another sorrowful event came when it was time to leave, and Lesley Green announced she would not be returning. Feeling overwhelmed by other responsibilities, she hopes to return to the company soon.

People of all ages, both deaf and hearing, were in attendance. All seemed to enjoy the production. For more information on the Body Language Dancers, write to: Body Language Dancers, 22 Cleveland Road, West Peabody, Mass. 01960.

Faculty art show starts up

By MELISSA CHOUINARD
Observer Staff Reporter

The Bentley Library will be featuring artwork by members of the NECC faculty in its October exhibit.

This season's second exhibition is a showcase of NECC art department, featuring faculty showing various works ranging from Kim Pickard's photography to Diane Edstrom's abstract paintings on silk.

Informative: "This gives the students and faculty a chance to see what the teachers in the art department are doing this year," said Arthur Signorelli, gallery coordinator.

"We are always looking over shoulders and giving criticisms to students, and this is a chance for the students to look over ours," said Gail Maciejewski, exhibit coordinator. An opening reception was held Oct. 6, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The third exhibit this semester, *Italy: One Hundred Years of Photography*, is brought from the Smithsonian Institute. It focuses on the development of photography in Italy, as well as the transformation the country has gone



Kim Pickard photo

NECC FACULTY artwork is featured in campus' October exhibit. Watch for additional coverage in our next issue.

Gail Maciejewski

"We are always looking over shoulders and giving criticisms to students, and this is a chance for the students to look over ours."

through in the last century.

Local celebrations: The gallery has also scheduled some special events to go with the exhibit, including an Italian dinner complete with the Italian Serenaders, a trip to the American Technology Museum, and a day of Italian music and dance. The gallery is hoping to highlight the large Italian community in the Lawrence and Haverhill areas.

The final exhibit, *Winter in New England*, Dec. 6 to Jan. 16, 1992, is hosted by the Swampscott Art Association. The artists have been working for nearly two years on this multi-media exhibit. It will be shown around the holidays to highlight the beauty of the season.

A holiday concert is also scheduled to be performed by the NECC Chorus and Performance Ensemble. An opening reception is scheduled for Dec. 8, from 2-4 p.m., and the concert will be held Dec. 15, at 2 p.m.

Admission is free to all exhibits and concerts. For more information on the events, contact Signorelli, at ext. 3706.

Halloween Dance

Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.
F-Building/Tiled Lounge
\$4 cover, \$2 with costume
Prizes for worst/best costume.

Sponsored by:

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Pat's touch down on Houston

By ARTHUR MURPHY
Observer Sports Editor

You're entering a dimension, not only of sight and sound but of mind. A journey that will tackle you beyond your imagination. Suddenly there's a field - goal post up ahead, Your next stop - THE END - ZONE!

The date is Sunday, Sept. 22, 1991. Your location Foxboro stadium. A game is about to begin, to one team an endless struggle of trying to get in the end-zone, a game the locals don't play very well.

Enter the New England Patriots, a team haunted by past skeletons, clouded by lost games, quarterback controversies, and a lockerroom scandal. Under new head coach Dick MacPherson, the young and inexperienced Patriots try to survive in the NFL.

Powerful offense: The Houston Oilers, a potent run-and-gun offensive team, slick into the stadium. Their objective, to crush the young and green Pats into submission.

Despite a full moon in the first half, Warren that is, over Foxboro, the Pats stifled the Oilers scoring machine allowing only six points. Linebacker Andre Tippett and defensive tackle David Howard were the first ones on Moon as they blocked four passes.

With the score tied at three after the first quarter, the Pats climbed their Mt. Everest of football, the end - zone. On an option play rookie Jon Vaughn threw a 13-yard pass to tight - end Marv Cook.

The team cruised on a 60-yard drive for yet

another end-zone encounter. The Patriots led at the half 17-6.

Burning oil: The Oilers were stunned as they were capped off by the youthful ones. In the fourth quarter, Houston proved why they were undefeated in the first three games.

Moon shined as he launched two touch-down passes to take a 20-17 lead.

As Thomas Paine once wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls."

The Patriots had surrendered two touch-downs and were on the verge of losing their third straight game.

With less than two minutes to go in the game, the Patriots had one valiant charge left. Millen led the troops with four completed passes combining for 83 yards. And with six seconds remaining, Millen's pass to wide receiver Greg McMurtry sparked a 34-yard touchdown. The Pat's clutch drive drilled Houston to a 24-20 victory.

Contributors: It was a big win for this green-collared team. Heroes like Hugh Millen, Jon Vaughn, Greg McMurtry, Marv Cook and defensive tackle David Howard emerged from the side-lines.

It will be a very long time before the Patriots have a winning season. Two Sundays past they fell to the Phoenix Cardinals 24-10 and Miami 20-10. However, Sept. 22, they proved that they can compete and win with a little help from the End-Zone.

Murph's View

1994 NFL expansion hopefuls

The National Football League has received applications for expansion teams from the following cities:



Expansion timetable

Oct. 1: Potential ownership groups must submit separate applications, \$100,000 fee (\$50,000 returned to rejected applicants)

March 1992: NFL Expansion Committee provides list of final candidate cities to current NFL clubs

Fall 1992: NFL selects two expansion teams to begin play in 1994, unless labor-management issues impede timetable

SOURCE: National Football League, news reports

9/30/91

KRTN Infographics/ROY GALLOP

Expansion hopes

DESPITE THE LACK of talent on the Patriots and other NFL teams these days, the league plans to expand by two teams in 1994.

Baseball post-season award predictions

By JON MORRIS
Observer Sports Editor

With the baseball season coming to a close, it's time to start thinking about the annual post-season awards. Here are this year's picks for the Cy Young, Most Valuable Player, and Rookie of the Year awards in the American and National leagues.

Cy Young, A.L.: Roger Clemens, Boston Red Sox.

Once again, Clemens was the most dominant pitcher in baseball. Although he didn't lead the league in wins, Clemens kept the Sox in the pennant race with an 18-8 record. He pitched extremely well down the stretch drive, when the Red Sox needed him most.

Clemens leads the American League with a 2.62 ERA, is first in strikeouts with 227, shutouts, with four, and second in complete games, with 12. His 18 wins trail only Minnesota's Scott Erickson's, Detroit's Bill Gullickson's 20 and California's Mark Langston's 19.

Last year, Clemens was beaten out by Bob Welch simply because Welch had a few more wins than he did. Don't look for the same thing to happen this year.

Erickson looked like a favorite to win the Cy Young earlier in the season as he helped the Twins to the top of the division, but he struggled at times in the second half. He does have the best record in baseball at 20-8 with a 3.27 ERA.

Erickson's teammate, Kevin Tapani also deserves consideration. Tapani had a tremendous stretch in which he lowered his ERA from over four down to 2.99. Tapani has a 16-9 record.

Jack McDowell, of the White Sox, could also be considered for this award. McDowell has a 17-10 record with a 3.41 ERA. His 15 complete games lead the league while his 253 innings pitched rank second. He is fourth in the league with 191 strikeouts.

Detroit's Gullickson is tied for the lead in victories with a

Morris' Musings

20-9 record. His 3.90 ERA isn't that impressive, but he kept the Tigers in the game most of the time and that can pay off with Cecil Fielder and company in the lineup. It was a great comeback year for a man who was pitching in Japan a couple of years ago.

Lefthanders Mark Langston and Jim Abbott of the Angels were both in the running.

Cy Young, N.L.: Tom Glavine, Atlanta Braves.

Glavine leads the National League in wins and played a huge role in the Braves win of the N.L. West with his 20-11 record. He also leads the league in complete games with nine, ranks second in innings pitched with 246, third in strikeouts with 192, and third in ERA at 2.55.

Had Cincinnati's Jose Rijo been healthy all season, he would have to be considered a favorite here. Rijo, who was injured for a good part of the season, has a 15-6 record and is second in the league with a 2.51 ERA.

Lee Smith, of St. Louis, may actually deserve this award. His 47 saves gives him the most ever by a National Leaguer. Smith has gotten the save or the win in 53 of his team's 84 wins. Considering the fact that relievers rarely take this award, it is doubtful that Smith will win.

Dennis Martinez had another superb season for the Montreal Expos. Martinez leads the league in shutouts with five, is tied for the lead in complete games, and is fifth in innings pitched. He has a 14-11 record and ranks tops in ERA at 2.39.

The Dodgers' Ramon Martinez looked like a front runner for the Cy Young earlier in the year, but struggled to win on the road in the second half. He holds a 17-13 record with an ERA of 3.27.

Most Valuable Player, A.L.: Cecil Fielder, Detroit Tigers. For the second straight year, Fielder put up great offensive numbers. He kept the Tigers in contention for most of the season with his league leading 44 home runs and 133 RBI's. Last year, Fielder was beaten on the MVP ballot by Rickey Henderson, even though he had 51 homers. Don't look for that to happen again this year. Fielder deserves the MVP.

Since pitchers rarely win this award, it is doubtful that Clemens will win, even though he is the most dominant player in the game.

Baltimore's Cal Ripken Jr. is among the league leaders in most offensive categories. His .323 average, 34 home runs, and 114 RBI's are all among the tops in the league. His 46 doubles, 210 hits, and .570 slugging percentage all rank second.

The Toronto Blue Jays have won the American League East thanks in large part to Joe Carter. After coming over from the Padres through an off-season trade, Carter propelled the Jays into first place with an early season home run tear. He ranks fourth in homers with 33 and sixth in RBI's with 108.

It's hard to overlook Chicago's Frank Thomas as an MVP candidate. Thomas is also in the top ten in many offensive categories. His .318 average, 32 home runs, and 109 RBI's all rank in the top ten. He leads the league in on base percentage at .457.

Oakland's Jose Canseco, who is tied with Fielder for the

lead in homers and is second in RBI's, Texas' Ruben Sierra, and Kansas City's Danny Tartabull all had outstanding seasons.

Most Valuable Player, N.L.: Barry Bonds, Pittsburgh Pirates.

For the second year in a row, Bonds has proven to be perhaps the best all around player in the game. From speed to fielding to power, Bonds has shown it all. His .292 average and 25 home runs are not mind-boggling, but his 116 RBI's rank second. He is among the league leaders in stolen bases with 41 and a slugging percentage of .514. Bonds has just three errors this year and is one of the best defensive outfielders in baseball. It's no coincidence the Pirates have won back to back division titles with Bonds in the lineup.

The Mets' Howard Johnson has put up some big power numbers this season, leading the league in home runs with 38 and RBI's with 117. He also ranks first in slugging percentage at .539.

Terry Pendleton has been a big part in the Braves resurgence. After coming over from St. Louis, Pendleton put together a great season, batting a league leading .319, with 22 homers and 86 RBI's. He leads the league with 187 hits and is among the leaders in total bases and slugging percentage.

Will Clark, of the Giants, can hardly be overlooked as an MVP candidate. Clark batted .301, with 29 homers and 116 RBI's.

Rookie of the Year, A.L.: Chuck Knoblauch, Minnesota Twins.

The Twins' first year second baseman played a big role in their rise to the top. Knoblauch has a .281 average, with one home run and 50 RBI's and has played steadily throughout the year.

Juan Guzman, of the Blue Jays, pitched extremely well in his rookie season and could also be considered for this award. His 10-2 record could be even better had he gotten more support from his teammates.

Rookie of the Year, N.L.: Jeff Bagwell, Houston Astros. There's not much doubt about this one. The former Red Sox prospect, who batted .293, with 15 home runs and 82 RBI's, is clearly the top N.L. rookie.

Pirate first baseman, Orlando Merced, also put together a fine rookie season, hitting .273, with 10 homers and 50 RBI's.

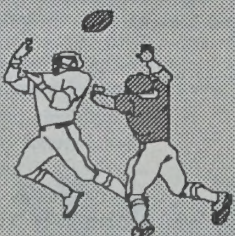
A.L. most valuable player

For the second straight year, Fielder has put up great offensive numbers. He kept the Tigers in contention for most of the season ... Last year, Fielder was beaten on the MVP ballot by Rickey Henderson, even though he had 51 homers. Don't look for that to happen again this year. Fielder deserves the MVP.

Sports facts

Shortest NFL overtime games

Overtime lasts 15 minutes



21 sec.	Chicago 23, Detroit 17 (11/27/80)*
30 sec.	Baltimore 29, New Eng. 23 (9/4/83)
55 sec.	N.Y. Giants 16, Phila. 10 (9/29/85)

*Only kickoff return for touchdown
SOURCE: National Football League

10/07/91

KRTN Infographics



Playoff bound?

Soccer team hopes to host tourney

By JON MORRIS
Observer Sports Editor

For the first time ever, the Massachusetts Community College Athletic Conference will be holding its playoffs at NECC on Oct. 26 and 27. The teams with the four best records in the conference will qualify.

NECC men's soccer coach Nunzio DiMarca likes what he sees from his team so far and hopes it will be one of the four to make the playoffs.

"The goal for this team is, number one, having a winning season," DiMarca said. "Making the playoffs is number two. I predicted that we would make the playoffs and I still continue saying that. It's just a matter of where we're going to be seeded. I still feel that we'll be one of the top two seeds."

Through five games this year, the Knights have a 2-2-1 record. The team is doing much better at this point than it was last year.

Tighter defense: Last year, through five games against the same teams, NECC had given up 30 goals. This year they have allowed 12.

DiMarca said that if it were not for some poor calls by the referees, the team could have an even better record.

Against Springfield Tech., The Knights suffered a 2-1 loss at home.

"We had to play shorthanded at the end of the game and a penalty shot was called against us that was no way a penalty shot," DiMarca said. "I can lose gracefully, provided we get outplayed, but in that game we didn't get outplayed. Otherwise we could be 3-1-1."

Poor calls: Assistant coach Mike Moody said, "The referees don't help us out at all. The refereeing has been horrendous for the last two games."

After that loss, the Knights bounced back to beat previously undefeated Southern Maine Vocational Institute, 6-3 in Maine.

They then went to Holyoke,

where they played to a 2-2 tie.

DiMarca said, "Hopefully we'll have another shot at them and Springfield Tech. in the playoffs."

Goalie Mike Garbardi was forced to miss the Holyoke game with a knee strain and captain Glenn Josephson had to play in net.

Filling in: "He hadn't played in net all year and he did an outstanding job," DiMarca said. "That's the type of team we have, guys that pull for each other."

Forward Dennis Desroches said, "We're pulling together. Before, we didn't play well together and then come the third game, everyone's pulling together."

Fullback Bob Medina thinks that effort may be a key to this team. "We've been working hard," Medina said. "We still have to keep on working, doing what we have to do."

Attendance wanted: Should NECC qualify for the MCCAC playoffs, DiMarca hopes that students will attend the games.

"We really need to see students," DiMarca said. "This is one of the biggest community colleges in New England. It's really sad that they don't come and cheer."

Coach Nunzio DiMarca on playoff prospects

"I predicted that we would make the playoffs and I still continue saying that. It's just a matter of where we're going to be seeded. I still feel that we'll be one of the top two seeds."

Heads up play

KNIGHTS' MARK CELESTIAN goes up for the ball in a 3-3 tie against Bunkerhill Community College in a game held at NECC.

Chris Evans photo

National Junior College Athletic Association – Region XXI

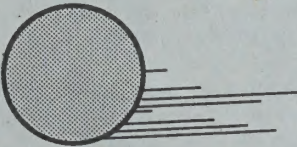
Men's soccer stats – Week ending 10/2/91

Team record:	wins	loses	ties
	2	2	1
Region record:	1	2	1

Game results

9/24	NECC	6	
	SMTI	3	
9/28	NECC	2	OT
	HOLYOKE	2	

Scoring leaders	games	goals	penalty kick	total
Mark Celestian	3	5	0	3
Glenn Josephson	5	3	0	3
Byron Monroy	5	3	0	3



Intramurals grow more popular this fall

By GEOFF LECAIN & ERIC STOESSEL
Observer Staff Reporters

As NECC students get settled into their classes, the intramural season is taking off. Many students have already taken advantage of the activities being offered to let people have fun and get into shape at the same time.

"Intramurals are growing and becoming more popular this year," said Donna Johnson, student health and fitness coordinator. "NECC is a commuting college and for some students there is not much time for participation."

The most popular activities this fall include the mens' and womens' 3-on-3 basketball.

"It's great!" said basketball player Jamie

Adame, "You get to make up your own teams to make competition stronger."

Getting fit: The Health and Fitness Challenge has also proven to be very popular. This program allows the students to keep track of their progress in the fitness center for the entire semester.

Intramural calendars and flyers are posted throughout the school to tell students about the school's activities. Students are finding time to get involved and are joining different programs.

"The intramurals are doing well, but there are still openings," Johnson said.

Despite the good turnout, some activities have not attracted much attention. These include flag football and street hockey, both of which are scheduled to begin in October.

A meeting for people interested in flag football will be held Oct. 14 in the gym lobby. The street hockey season is scheduled to begin Oct. 7.

In addition to these sports, several tournaments are scheduled for this semester. A pool tournament, a ping-pong tournament, and a free-throw contest are also planned.

Prizes given: Trophies and t-shirts will be given out to the best contestants.

There is no talk about the Lawrence campus starting any intramurals to this date. Still, there is a chance of receiving some video games and ping-pong tables in the near future.

Sign-up sheets are located in the gym lobby for anyone interested in any of these activities. Contact Johnson in the Gym Building, ext. 3819.



Chris Evans photo

DONNA JOHNSON

A work of genius

Gilliam's new film ambitious in scope

By BILL BURKE

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Film Review

The quest for honor, love, the Holy Grail, and Ethel Merman in modern day New York City. These are the goals of Terry Gilliam's new movie, *The Fisher King*.

The Fisher King is essentially a story of two men and the circumstances surrounding their interaction. Jeff Bridges plays a popular shock DJ on a radio call-in show. Through confused messages and utter disregard for people in general, Jack (Bridges) unintentionally urges a deranged caller to walk into a trendy yuppie bar and open fire with a shotgun.

Descent into oblivion: Over the course of the next three years, Jack sees his high-powered, money-driven world disappear. He loses his apartment, his girlfriend, and his self-esteem. Jack turns to the bottle and becomes an uncontrollable drunk.

Through a set of coincidental circumstances, Jack meets up with a crazed street person named Perry (Robin Williams). Perry rescues Jack in a humorously dark situation, and takes him back to his "humane abode."

Perry's interaction at this point is alternately funny and somber. Perry consistently talks to invisible little people who tell him that Jack is "the one" who can retrieve the mythical Holy Grail.

Tragedy: By the end of this discourse, it is evident that Perry is an

indirect victim of Jack's ego-driven antics of years before. Perry, a former college professor, and his young wife were at the yuppie bar three years prior. Perry's wife was killed by the insane gunman, which then sent him into both a catatonic silence, and a delusional state.

The depth of the film at this point becomes perfectly clear. There are scores of different metaphorical allusions that all tie in as the story unfolds.

Symbolism: Perry finds himself hunted relentlessly by a spectral red knight, who represents the fear and pain of his past, both of which the shattered man cannot face.

After Jack finds out who Perry is, or rather, was, he feels responsible for his well being. The inner transformation of Jack from an egocentric, selfish man, to a giving man willing to risk a great deal to lift the crushing guilt from his shoulders results.

The plot, however, is not as neatly sewn up as it may at first appear. Just as in real life, people change, and things do not necessarily come out looking rosy. There are problems, heartless betrayal, and unforeseen obstacles.

Bridges is excellent as the troubled Jack, as he brings to the film a feeling of cold reality. His inner turmoil is actually felt as his transformation takes place from one type of personality to another.

Talent: Robin Williams gave us a glimpse of his genius in the tragically perfect, *The World According to Garp*. He showed us his manic versatility in *Good Morning Vietnam*, and now he combines all of his talents, comic and serious, to turn in a masterful performance as the wildly insane Perry. Williams' portrayal of the "crazy" man works like magic with the "sane" Bridges character.

Both Mercedes Ruehl as Anna, Jack's live-in girlfriend, and Amanda Plummer as Lydia, the object of Perry's love from afar, turn in incredible performances that add depth and strength to the already strong cast. The interaction between Perry and Lydia is so hilariously awkward that it is enough to make anyone uncomfortable in remembrance of his or her first date.

The cast delivers a flawless work of art, but without a doubt, this is director Terry Gilliam's movie.

Skillful direction: Gilliam is the one-time member of Monty Python's Flying Circus who has created some of the most visually stunning movies in recent memory.

Time Bandits was his first solo venture, followed by the cerebral journey into the fantastic, *Brazil*.

Brazil featured landscapes and scenery that conjured a starkly surreal atmosphere. His use of small, cold areas populated with far too many people gave one a claustrophobic feel. This style is immediately recognizable in *The Fisher King*.

The New York of Terry Gilliam



THE FISHER KING

New release

'THE FISHER KING' may be one of the biggest movie hits of the year.

is surreal, yet plausible. One particularly memorable scene has Jack and Perry waiting in a crowded commuter train station with hundreds of quietly morose people bustling by. All at once, music starts, and the station is transformed into a ballroom dance. Commuters dance one another around in a dream-like sequence, as Perry fruitlessly chases his love Lydia through the throng. The scene is one that is sure to become a standard against which all others will be measured.

The only way to describe

Gilliam's talent is pure genius. He is a neglected visionary on the American film scene.

The Fisher King is a film that both challenges and entertains. It is a roller coaster of emotions that runs from happy to sad, hopeful to hopeless, tragic to comedic. By the conclusion, it leaves one emotionally drained and simultaneously full of admiration for someone who can produce a work that succeeds on so many different levels. Besides, how can a Grail quest fail with an ex-Python member at the helm?

Goldie deceived in new mystery thriller

By AMY BOARDMAN

Observer Arts & Entertainment Editor

Observer Reviews

Art, murder and intrigue make for a mystery thriller in Goldie Hawn's new film *Deceived*.

Hawn (*Private Benjamin*) plays Adrian, a New York art restorer. She eventually meets and marries Jack, (John Heard), a New York curator.

Adrian and Jack meet accidentally at a restaurant one night, but nothing becomes of it until weeks later. A piece of art from Jack's museum needs work, so he takes it to Adrian's company for repair.

Soon after the couple marries, they have a daughter. All sounds like a fairy tale until one night at a plush art reception, a murder occurs, and things take a turn for the worse.

Hidden agenda: The marriage resembles something from a story book until Adrian finds some clues that lead her to believe that her husband is stealing art.

Perhaps *Deceived* sounds rote, but sit through the first 20 minutes and you will feel otherwise.

No doubt the film contains cliché shots. For example, at a suspenseful yet silent point

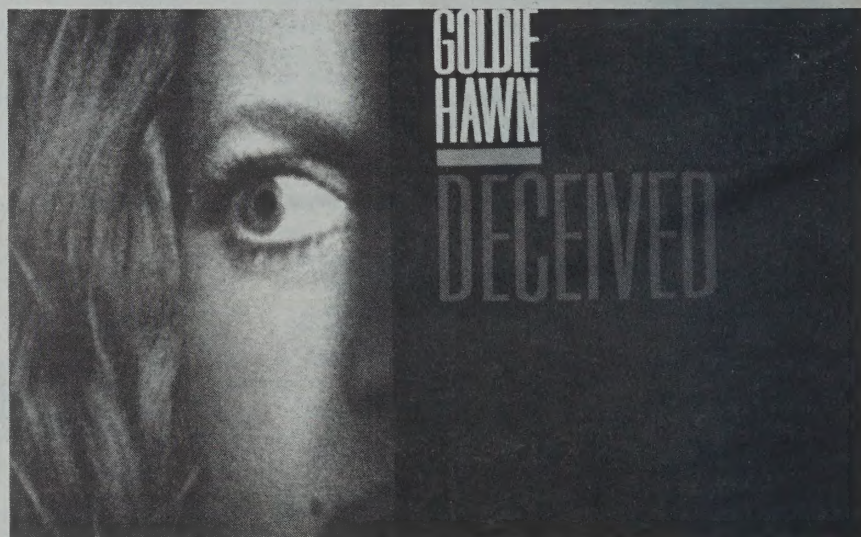
in the film, with only the score in the background, Adrian breaks the silence by banging a spoon on a pan of warm milk. At that point, the audience lets out a gasp of surprise.

Plot twist: *Deceived* definitely lacks classic potential, but has positive points besides the clichés that actually enhance the film. Suspense never ends in the film as it just continues to build up to an exciting conclusion. The plot takes on a new direction and the solution seems invalid.

This film embarks Hawn on a seven picture deal with Disney. If *Deceived* indicates the quality of the films, things are going well, the film delivers Hawn into an entirely different genre of film and refreshes audiences.

Until now, she has portrayed comedic characters, but with *Deceived*, Hawn takes on new direction, showing the audience her dramatic side.

Talent: She delivers a believable performance and rarely over-dramatizes, which is quite refreshing in today's film market. Her character comes off in a very natural



light, but she stays tough throughout her turbulent times with her husband.

Heard delivers a mediocre and at times over-dramatic performance. *Deceived* asks Heard to stretch himself as an actor, and in some instances the stretch does not prevail.

Besides some obvious flaws, *Deceived* provides an evening of twists and turns for the audience and keeps it guessing until the truth is revealed.

If nothing else, see this film for Hawn's believable performance in a dramatic role.

Petty puts on hot show on cold night at Great Woods

By GARRY DEBLASIS

Observer Staff Reporter

It felt more like a December Patriots game than a rock concert, but no one was left out in the cold during Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' masterful performance recently at Great Woods in Mansfield.

Petty and the Heartbreakers showed no signs of backing down even though temperatures dipped near the 40 degree mark. His Southern charm and experienced band warmed up the crowd through a 2 1/2 hour, 22 song, set that spanned across 13 years and 10 albums worth of music, much to the audience's delight.

Crowd pleaser: Promoting its new album *Into the Great Wide Open*, The Heartbreakers played nine songs off the album, including

Learning to Fly, *Out in the Cold*, and the title track. Petty also included an acoustic medley of old favorites like *Refugee*, *American Girl*, *Breakdown* and other songs from Petty's solo album, *Full Moon Fever*.

The Heartbreakers displayed their musical talents equally, proving they're more than just Petty's backup band, with the talented drumming and vocals of Stan Lynch, the artistic bass and vocals of Howie Epstein, Benmont Tench's dazzling piano effects, and the tasteful guitar licks from the group's lieutenant Mike Campbell. This, combined with Petty's rhythmic guitar and unique vocals, were all arranged to perfection.

Unusual imagery: The stage setting was designed with chandeliers dangling from above, and a huge replica of a tree with doors that branched out across the stage. From out

of the tree, Petty was visited by what he called the Psychedelic Dragon, which brought him his harmonica on a silver platter, which he played during the song *Psychotic Reaction*, performed by Lynch.

The concert was blended well with music, and a taste of comedy that Petty showed to be serious. Petty's views about Greenpeace and the environment were shown during the song, *Don't come around here no more*.

Three men donning Nixon, Reagan, and Bush masks, chased Petty around the stage until he flashed a Greenpeace sign in front of



them, warding them away. Petty urged the crowd to donate money to Greenpeace, and to protect the land, as humans are the only ones to help save it.

Hitting his stride: Touring until the summer of '92, Petty seems to be enjoying himself for the first time in quite awhile. With the traumas of dealing with record producers, drinking problems and his house burning down behind him, Petty looks more laid-back and relaxed with his life, career, and his band mates. With the Great Woods gig, a hot-selling album, and peace with himself, for Petty, *The Sky is the Limit*.